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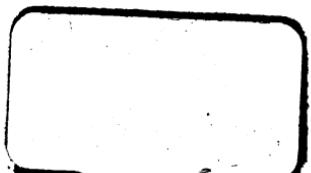


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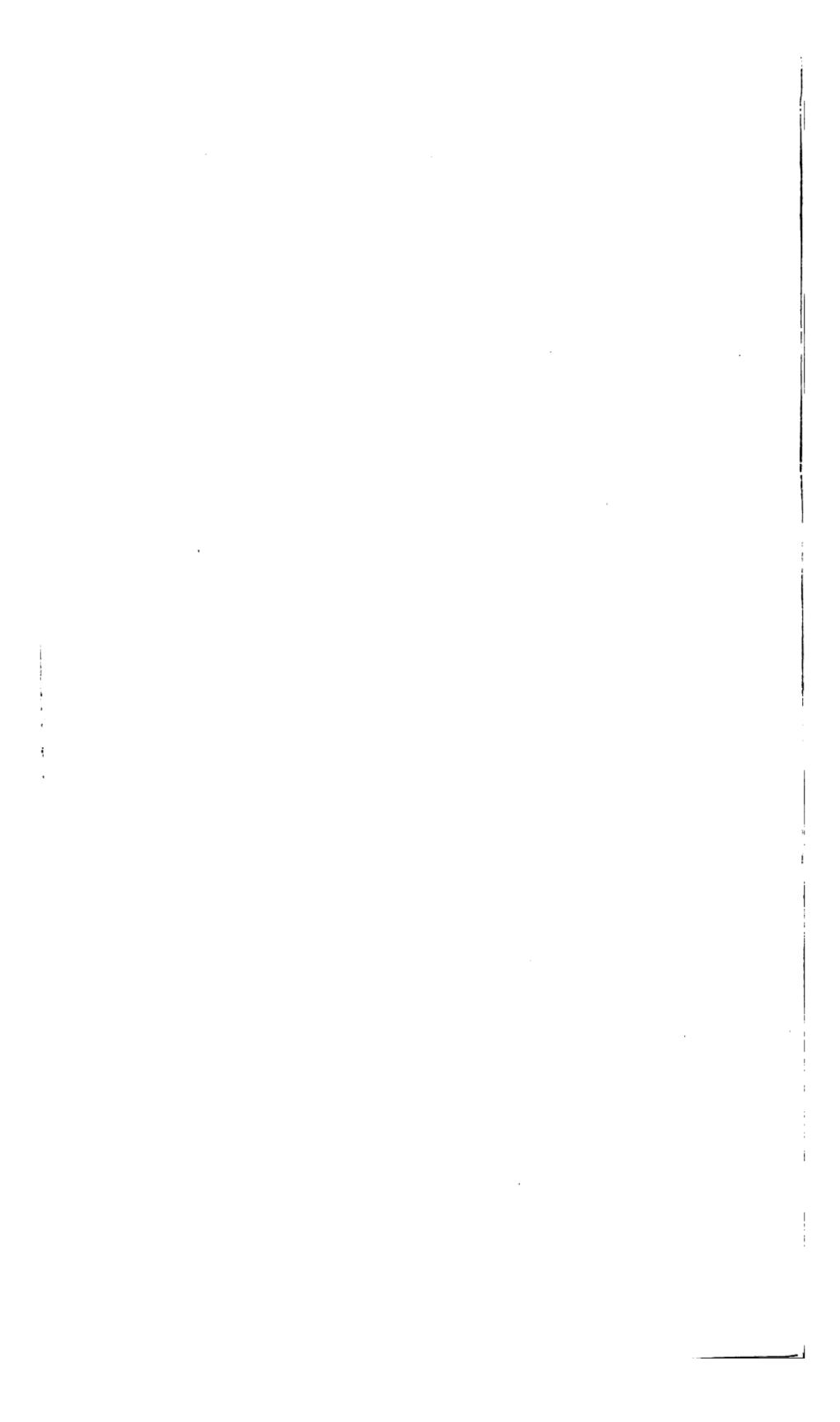
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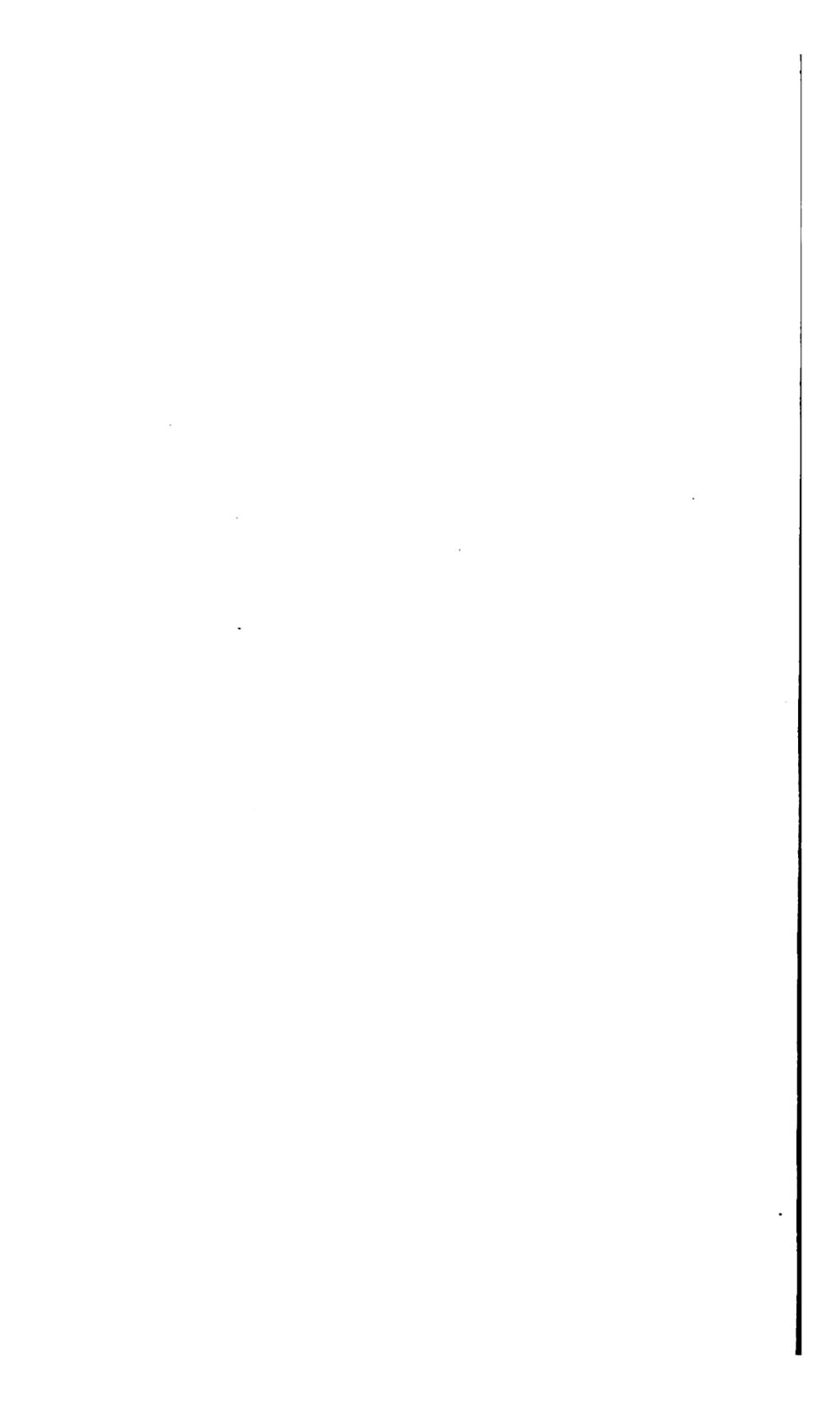


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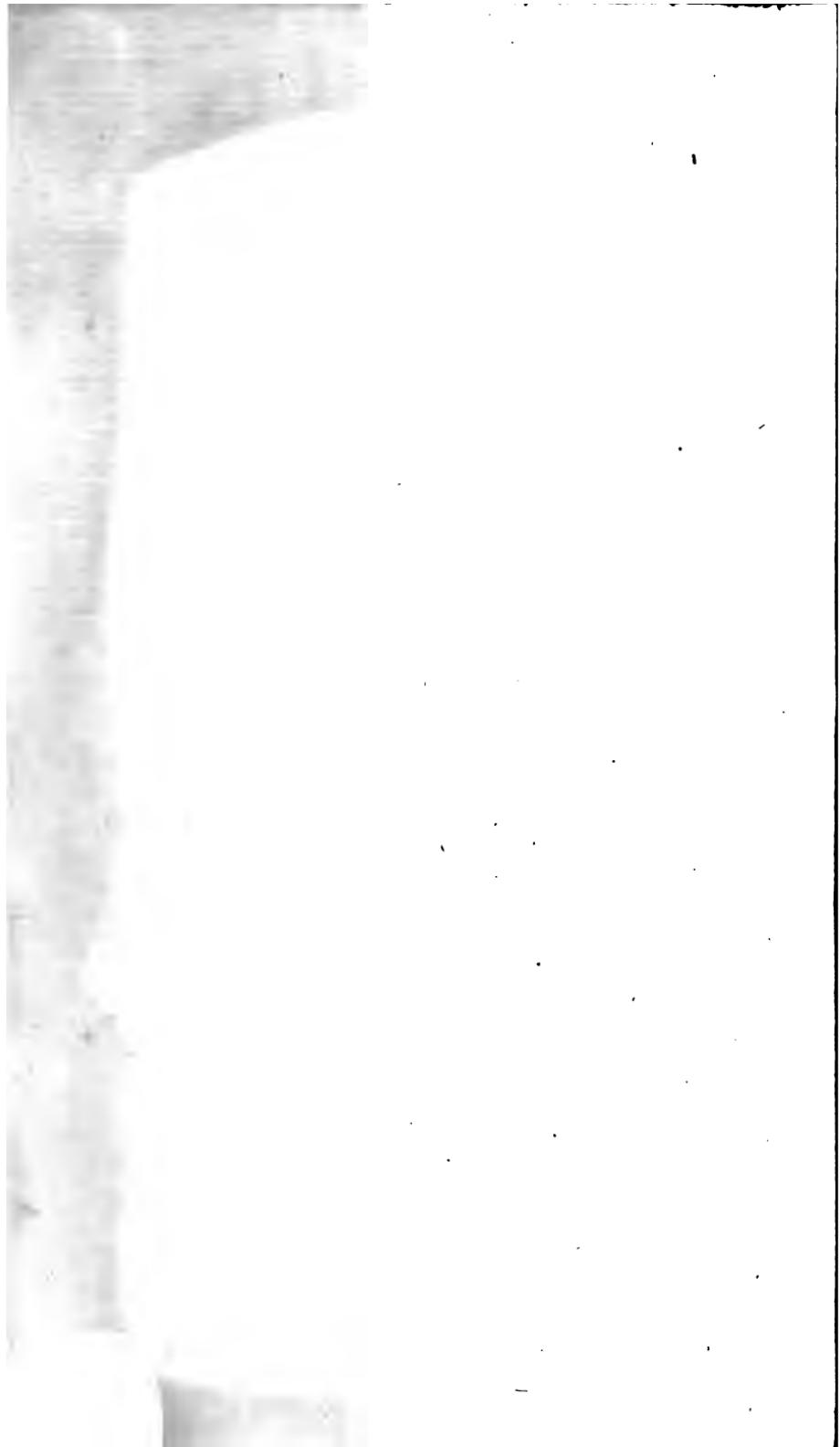
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RNY



# OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

## SCOTTISH DIALECT.

By JOHN SINCLAIR, Esq; M. P.

*Vive moribus præteritis, verbis præsentibus loquere.*

AVL. GELL. lib. i. c. 10.

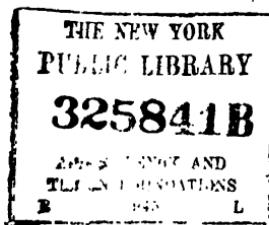
Live like times past, but like the present speak;  
In words, an Englishman; in deeds, a Greek.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR W. STRAHAN, AND T. CADELL IN THE  
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## A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

IT was the full persuasion that a Collection of Scoticisms would be of use to my countrymen, not the vanity of being thought an Author, which gave rise to the following Publication.

In composing the Work, the Collection annexed by Mr. Hume to the first Edition of his Political Discourses, and the Remarks made on the Scottish Dialect by Dr. Beattie and Mr. Elphinston, were of essential use. The Author was also favoured with the assistance of

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other Gentlemen, not unacquainted with philological studies, who expunged many errors he had inadvertently fallen into, and added many ingenious Observations, which otherwise might have been lost.

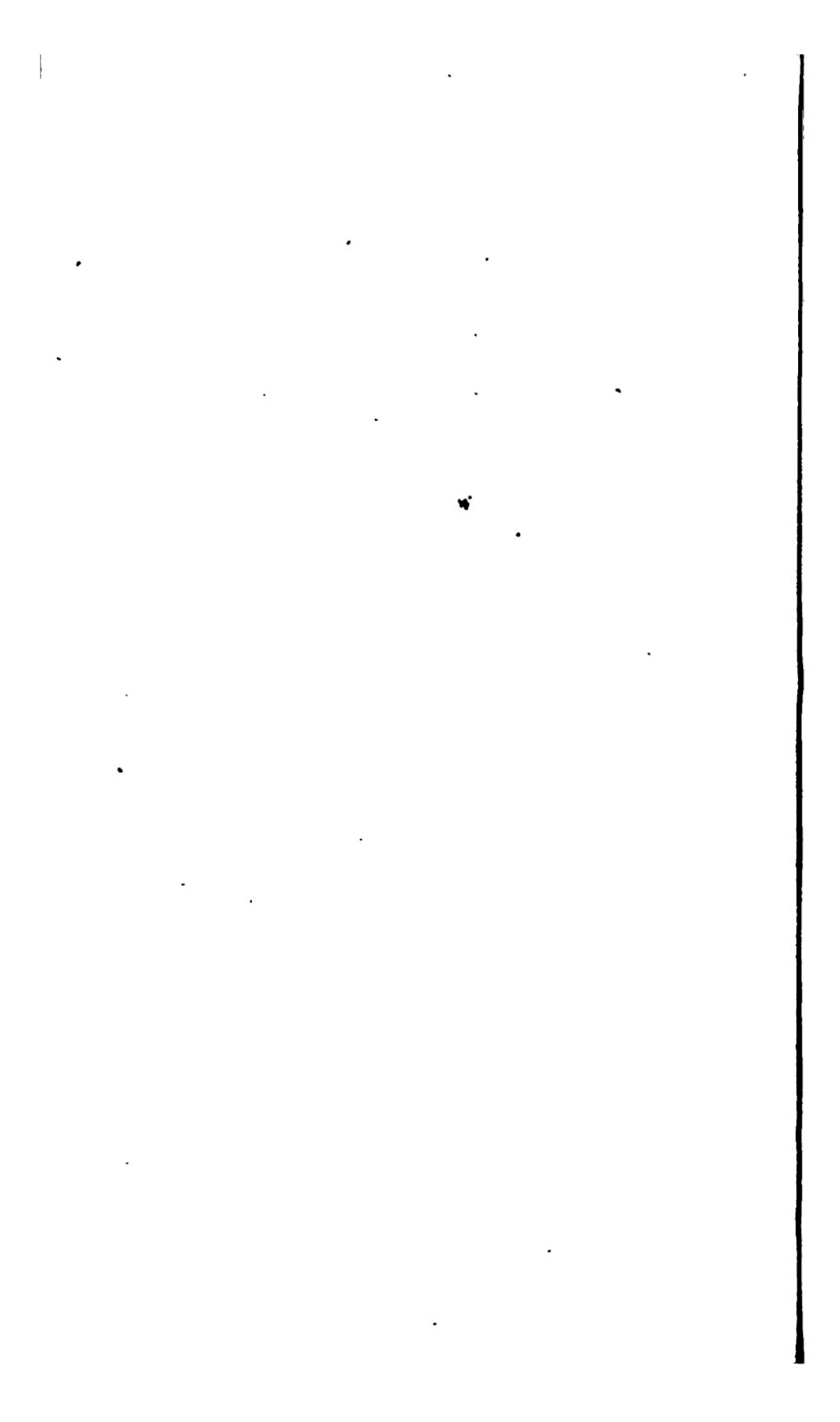
But, notwithstanding every possible attention, the first edition of a work of this nature must be deficient in many important particulars; and can never be brought to any tolerable degree of perfection, without the united efforts of almost every individual conversant in such subjects. The Author has therefore been led (though prudence would have dictated otherwise) to prefix his name to a performance, in many respects imperfect,

A D V E R T I S E M E N T. ▼

trusting that those who are friends to such an undertaking, will exert themselves in its behalf, and will favour him with their remarks, assistance, and correction.

Park-Street, Westminster,  
January, 1782.

C O N-



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## C O N T E N T S.

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## E R R A T A,

Page 4. line 18. for Scotch read Scots.

119. —— 8. for gallentree read gallontree.

175. —— 8 and 10. for Tolumnius read Tolumnius.

## THE

## INTRODUCTION.

GRAMMATICAL disquisitions are accounted, of all others, the dullest and most insipid. To many it seems of no importance, whether this or that word expresses, with the greater purity, a particular idea: and, perhaps, it is of little consequence to any individual, who lives in a retired and distant corner of the country, in what stile his sentiments are given. His highest ambition generally is to be understood, not to please his hearers. But such as wish to mix with the world, and

\* B particularly

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particularly those whose object it is to have some share in the administration of national affairs, are under the necessity of conforming to the taste, the manners, and the language of the Public. Old things must then be done away—new manners must be assumed, and a new language adopted. Nor does this observation apply to Scotchmen only: the same remark may be extended to the Irish; to the Welsh, and to the inhabitants of several districts in England; all of whom have many words and phrases peculiar to themselves, which are unintelligible in the senate-house, and in the capital.

It is not however in a private, but in a national view, and as a circumstance of importance to the Public in general, that this subject ought properly to be considered. Whilst so striking a difference as  
that

## INTRODUCTION. 3

that of language exists between England and Scotland, ancient local prejudices will not be removed ; nor can it be expected that two neighbouring nations, which, though now so happily united, were for many ages at variance with each other, will be able to consider themselves as the same people. A late eminent Statesman (Archibald Duke of Argyle) thought a resemblance or identity of language of such real national importance, that he is said to have furnished Mr. Hume with the materials of his printed collection \*. Of late many Scotch authors have shewn an uncommon degree of attention to the purity of their stile and diction : and if they had published the discoveries which their knowledge and experience in composition taught them, it would

\* I mention this upon the authority of that eminent physician Dr. Cullen, whose connexion and intimacy with the family of Argyle are well known.

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have rendered these observations unnecessary.

But before we proceed to examine the differences between the Scotch and English dialects, it may not be improper to make a few short observations upon the origin of the Scottish dialect, and to explain the means by which it became, even in an early period, so general and so prevalent in Scotland.

The Scotch language is acknowledged to be a dialect of the Saxon or Old English, with some trifling variations. Indeed the two languages originally were so nearly the same, that the principal differences at present between them, are owing to the Scotch having retained many words and phrases which have fallen into disuse among the English.

At

## I N T R O D U C T I O N.      5

At first, it seems difficult to account for the introduction of a dialect of the Saxon into a country where the Erse or Gaelic was spoken; a language not a little celebrated for its strength and beauty. It must strike every one as an uncommon circumstance, that the language of England should prevail in a state, the members of which had a rooted enmity to the English name: and some authors have thought it necessary to account for so singular a phenomenon, by endeavouring to trace a remote connection between the Scots and English, even in the forests of Germany \*.

Others,

\* " Nay, they (the Scots) might even bring the language they speak (namely, the Broad Scotch) out of Germany. For Tacitus tells us the *Aestyii*, a people of German Scythia, a little to the north of Brandenburgh, spoke a language that came nearer to the British, though they followed the customs and

## INTRODUCTION.

Others, however, are satisfied with carrying their researches as far back as the year 858, when the Saxons, under the conduct of Osbreth and Ella, subdued the southern provinces of Scotland, expelled the antient possessors, and settled there with their adherents. It is certain that Lothian, which included the country from the Frith of Forth to the Tweed, was for many years inhabited by Saxons, and governed by the ancient Monarchs of Northumberland. The inhabitants of that country, though afterwards subdued by the Scots, retained the manners and language of their progenitors: and when Edinburgh,

“ habits of the Suevians. Now we know from Ptolemy and Tacitus, that the Angles or English were Suevians; which makes it more than probable, that the English and Scottish were neighbours in Germany, before they dwelt together in Britain.”

Free's Essay on the English Tongue, 3d Edit. p. 118.

the

## I N T R O D U C T I O N. 7

the principal city of Lothian, became the capital of Scotland, a dialect of the Saxon, the language of that province, gradually spread itself from the metropolis of the kingdom, to its most northern extremities.

To this we may add, that many Saxons settled in Scotland under the auspices of Malcolm Caenmore, and fled thither from William the Norman's tyranny and oppression\*. And as that country, even in

later

\* " The Normans having thus settled themselves in  
" England, Prince Edgar, with his mother and two  
" sisters, and such of the English nobility as adhered  
" to him, or could not endure the insolence of the  
" Normans, withdrew themselves into Scotland.  
" And Malcolm, the third of that name, having mar-  
" ried Margaret, the elder of the two sisters, the Scot-  
" tish court, by reason of the Queen, and the many  
" English that were with her, began to speak English.  
" Moreover, many of the English nobility and gentry,  
" that now came into Scotland, were, by the benevo-

## 8      I N T R O D U C T I O N.

later ages, was always a secure asylum to such of the English as thought themselves injured by their own Monarchs, it became the usual place of their retreat. From them many of the first families now in Scotland derive their origin; whose example and influence could not fail to render the English language more generally adopted.

It ought also to be observed, that it is very natural for an inferior kingdom to imitate the manners and language of a wealthier and more powerful neighbour: a circumstance still more to be expected, when both nations came to be governed

“ lence of the King, so preferred in one condition or  
“ other, that they there settling themselves, their off-  
“ spring have since spread themselves into sundry very  
“ noble families, which are yet, unto this day, there  
“ remaining, and by their surnames to be discerned.”

Verstegan's Restit. of decayed Intell. p. 193. 195,  
and 196,

by

## I N T R O D U C T I O N. 9

by the same King, who seldom visited Scotland, and who would not offend the prejudices of his new subjects, by permitting any other language to be made use of at his court, than that of England.

During the reign of James the First, the Scotch and English dialects, so far as we can judge by comparing the language of the writers who flourished at that time, were not so dissimilar as they are at present. Time, however, and commerce, joined to the efforts of many ingenious men, have since introduced various alterations and improvements into the English language, which, from ignorance, inattention, or national prejudices, have not always penetrated into the north. But the time, it is hoped, will soon arrive, when a difference, so obvious to the meanest capacity, shall no longer exist between two countries by nature so intimately connected. In garb, in manners,

in

10      I N T R O D U C T I O N.

in government, we are the same; and if the same language were spoken on both sides of the Tweed, some small diversity in our laws and ecclesiastical establishments excepted, no striking mark of distinction would remain between the sons of England and Caledonia.

The Author of this little performance, with pleasure contributes his mite to a purpose so truly desirable.



O B S E R V A T I O N S  
ON THE  
S C O T T I S H D I A L E C T.



## C H A P. I.

*Phrases peculiar to Scotland.*

THOSE who pay attention to their style and manner of expression, may not improperly be arranged into two classes: into those who are fond of needlessly introducing new words and phrases, and into such as are determined enemies to innovation. Few hit that proper

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per medium which Pope has so well inculcated,

“ Be not the first, by whom the new are try’d,  
“ Nor yet the last, to lay the old aside.”

Languages, it is certain, are subject to a variety of alterations, and at first they ought to be so. The same sounds which are well calculated to express the rough sentiments of a tribe of warlike Barbarians, such as the Saxons were when they first landed in this island, are found, by experience, too harsh and rugged for the nicer feelings of their posterity. Nor indeed can it be expected, that such a language should be able to express the vast accumulation of new and varied ideas that necessarily arise in a learned and commercial nation. There are few who will not allow, that it was requisite to soften and improve the barbarous dialect brought into Britain

Britain by Hengist and Horsa, described by the Historian of the English language as a speech cursory and extemporaneous, abrupt and unconnected, and, probably, without even an alphabet \*.

But, on the other hand, it may be observed, that there is a point beyond which alterations ought not to be rashly complied with, and must prove equally pernicious, whether their object be to introduce new, or to explode old and well-known words and phrases. Indeed, when a language (as was the case with that of England in the reign of Queen Anne) has once acquired an ample share of strength, copiousness and beauty, material changes are seldom necessary, and in general ought to be carefully avoided.

\* Vide Johnson's Hist. of the English Language, in his Folio Dictionary.

If that age, therefore, is to be considered as the classical period of the English language, a Scoticism may be defined to be that mode of speaking or writing (for it is difficult to draw the line between colloquial and written idioms) which now prevails in Scotland, and is neither at this time generally known in England, nor was current at the æra we have mentioned.

The following idioms, which, it is presumed, come under that description, are those which the Author has had an opportunity of remarking.

SCOTCH

SCOTCH and ENGLISH  
DIALECTS.

Scotch. *To want for any thing.*

English. To be without any thing not desirable.

Ex. *Though the plague raged in London, we wanted it* (instead of we had it not, or were without it) *in Scotland\**.

*To cause a person to do any thing.*

*To make a person do any thing.*

---

\* The verb want, says Dr. BEATTIE, denotes, 1. To wish for. Ex. *What do you want?* I want a candle. 2. To be without something fit, necessary, or good. Ex. *He wants his sight.* 3. To be without something not good, or desirable: but in this sense it is never used, unless preceded by a negative. Thus, “They never want “the plague at Constantinople,” is good English; but it would be reckoned a Scotticism to say, “By the last ac-“counts from the Levant, it appears they wanted the “plague at Constantinople.”

Using *cause* for *make*, is a frequent and obnoxious Scoticism.

*To do bidding.*

To do what is bidden or ordered.

*Hinder to do.*

Hinder from doing.

"*Hindered not Satan to pervert the mind,*" may be found in Milton; but that idiom, if it was not originally a poetical licence, is now obsolete. "*Contented himself to do,*" instead of "*contented himself with doing,*" is also exceptionable.

*To do any thing to purpose.*

To do any thing to the, or to good, purpose.

*A purpose-like person* is also erroneously made use of in Scotland, for *a person seemingly well qualified for any particular business or employment.*

*He*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 17

*He behoved to do it.*

It behoved him, he must or was obliged, to do it.

There is no word that Scotch authors are more apt to use improperly than the word *bebove*, which is seldom made use of by English writers, except in very solemn style; and even then only impersonally.

*To affront any one.*

To eclipse, or get the better of any one.

This sense of the word *affront*, according to Dr. Johnson, is peculiar to the Scottish dialect, of which a passage from Arbuthnot is cited as an example.

*To think shame.*

To be ashamed.

*To think scorn, for to disdain,* is old English, Esther iii. 6. *To think long, for, to think the time long,* stands in the same predicament.

C

To

18      OBSERVATIONS ON

*To notice.*

To take notice, or to mention.

There is this difference, says Mr. Elphinston, between the Scotch and English dialects; that in the former, *to notice*, is misapplied, for *to take notice*, whereas in the latter, it only signifies *to give it*.

*To draw cuts.*

To cast lots.

*Drawing cuts*, though formerly made use of by Locke and Sidney (*vide Johnson's Folio Dict. Voce Cut*, No. 7.), and still a colloquial phrase in some Parts of England, is now generally exploded.

*To tak' tent.*

To take heed.

A story is told of an English lady, who consulted a physician from Scotland, and being desired by him *to tak' tent*, understood

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT.

that *tent wine* was prescribed her, which she took accordingly. It is not said what was the consequence of this mistaken prescription; but as that species of wine is far from being a specific for every disorder, this is a phrase which, by the faculty at least, ought to be carefully avoided.

*To fever.*

To be seized with a fever.

*To steik a door.*

To shut a door.

*To tak' the door with one,* is also made use of by the vulgar in Scotland, for, *to shut the door after one.*

*To fneck the door.*

To latch, or shut, the door.

The *fneck*, or *fnecket*, of a door, is the latch, by which the doors of the

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common people are generally fastened. This, and some other phrases which are accounted Scoticisms, are not uncommon in some parts of England, particularly in the North; but a phrase being provincial or current among the vulgar in England, is no reason why it should be made use of by such Scotchmen as wish to be distinguished by the elegance of their stile, or the purity of their expression.

*To give one a bat.*

To make a bow to any one.

*To give one a bat*, in the common dialect of Scotland, does not imply, *making the present of a bat to a person*, but only *pulling it off, as a mark of respect and attention.*

*To make songs on one.*

To praise one much.

To

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. . 21

*To make songs on one,* in the Scottish dialect, is *to praise one much, either in prose or verse.* The Scotch were, formerly, much addicted to poetry ; and from the custom, so frequent in Scotland, of making songs in praise of a person in verse, that phrase came at last to signify, *great praises in the duller vehicle of prose.*

*To make a phrase about one.*

To make a great work about one.

*To make of one.*

To make much of one.

*To make up to a lady,*

To make an offer of marriage to a lady.

*To make up to a person,* in England, only means, *to advance towards a person, and to begin a conversation.*

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*To cast out with a person.*

To fall out with a person,

*To cut out one's hair,*

To cut off one's hair,

As *cutting out*, implies *roots and all*, it would probably be found a very cruel and dangerous operation.

*To follow out a plan,*

To carry on, execute, or finish, a plan,

*To follow out a chain of reasoning.*

To trace out a chain of reasoning,

*To open up a wound.*

To open, or lay open, a wound,

*To go even up a hill.*

To go straight up a hill,

*To insist for a thing.*

To insist on, or upon, a thing,

To

*To call for a person.*

To call on a person.

*To call for*, is to demand; *to call on*, is to visit. This distinction ought to be attended to.

*To wait on a person.*

To wait for a person.

*To wait on a person*, implies his being present, and your attending him. *To wait for*; his being absent, but your expecting to see him.

*To tell upon one.*

To tell of one.

*To tell on one*, is called, by Dr. Johnson, a doubtful phrase; but *to tell upon one*, is, without doubt, improper.

*To be married on one.*

To be married to one.

*Married with*, I believe, is also exploded.

*To meet one upon the street.*

To meet one in the street.

*To have a watch upon one.*

To have a watch about one.

*To see about one.*

To see, inquire, or look after one.

One may *see about himself*, but he must *look after another person*.

*Come in by.*

Come in, or draw near.

*To come into the fire.*

To come, or draw, near the fire.

To

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 25

*To be liable in a compensation.*

To be liable to a compensation.

*To make a point of honour in any thing.*

To make a point of honour of any thing.

*To be provided in a living, or office.*

To be provided with a living, or office.

*To profit from experience.*

To profit by experience.

*To blow the bellows.*

To blow the fire with the bellows.

If blowing the bellows is English, it is surely a ridiculous expression.

*To stick any thing.*

To spoil any thing in the execution.

*To be ill to guide.*

To be difficult to manage.

*To*

26 . . . OBSERVATIONS ON

*To be a good guide of any thing.*

*To be a good husband, or manager, of any thing.*

*To art one to any thing.*

*To direct or point out any thing to one,*

The verb *art*, is probably derived from the Gaelic *aird*, a coast or quarter. Hence the Scots also say, *what art*, for *what quarter, does the wind blow from?*

*To fall in the gutter.*

*To fall in the dirt,*

A *gutter*, is properly a *passage for water*; not the *dirt* or *water* with which it may be filled.

*To be lost in a river.*

*To be drowned in a river,*

**Unless**

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 59

Unless the body was *lost*, as is generally the case at sea, and could not be discovered, the phrase is exceptionable. It is, sometimes however, made use of in England.

*To be out of one's judgment.*

To be out of one's *senses*.

The Scotch phrase is surely preferable, because a lunatic may have lost his *judgment*, and yet have his *senses* in perfection. And if, in the English phrase, it is said, that the reason or understanding is meant, why is *senses* in the plural?

*To be angry at a man.*

To be angry with a man.

*Angry at*, may be found in the *Spectator*, No. 197. *in fine*, but it is at present confined to Scotland. Properly speaking, we  
may

28      OBSERVATIONS ON

may be *angry at a thing*, but *with*, and not *at*, a person.

*To have hatred at a man.*

x      To have hatred to a man.

*To ask, inquire, or demand at a man.*

To ask, inquire, or demand of a man.

*To ask at, &c.* is a French, and not an English idiom.

*To set off on a journey.*

To set out on a journey.

At least *setting out* is preferable.

*To look over a window.*

To look out at a window.

*To look over a window*, can only refer to a window below, and not to the one you look out at.

*To look over a hill* and *to differenfly* <sup>To</sup>  
from *to look out of a window* of England.  
The *hill* is going to be *England*. But the  
*window* is *England*.

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 29

*To crave a man for a debt.*

To ask, demand, or dun a man for a debt.

*To crave a debt, or payment of a debt,*  
cannot be objected to.

*To challenge, or quarrel any one.*

To reprove, or rebuke any one.

*To lay our account with an event.*

To expect, or previously apprehend an event.

*To meet with one's marrow.*

To meet with one's match or equal.

*Meeting with one's marrow,* is an old English phrase, now grown obsolete.

*To even one thing to another.*

To equal or compare one thing to another.

*To even,* is sometimes made use of in Scotland, for *to lay out one person for another in marriage.* Nor does it matter whether

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ther the match is *equal* or not: generally it is *unequal*, and the person who is said to be *evened to the other*, has the better of the bargain.

*To be well appointed with a house, servant, &c.*

To be well settled in a house, and well suited with a servant.

*To be reconciled with a person.*

To be reconciled to a person.

*To have a resemblance with one.*

To have a resemblance to one.

*To be prevailed with to do any thing.*

To be prevailed upon to do any thing.

*To burst for laughing.*

To burst with laughing.

Addison says, *to die for thirst*; but *of*, or *by thirst*, seems to be preferable.

To

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 31

*To bring a note for one.*

To bring a nóté to one.

The *note*, it may be said, is *carried for the person it is sent by*, and *to the person to whom it is directed*.

*What's your will?*

What would you have? What do you want?  
or What was you saying?

There is no colloquial idiom more common with Scotchmen, or more disagreeable to the English, than *What's your will?*

*As I shall answer.*

Upon my honour, I protest, or declare,

The Scotch phrase seems to be elliptic, for, *as I shall answer at the great day of Judgment.*

*Let me be.*

Let me along,

*I am*

32 · · · OBSERVATIONS ON

*I am boeful that.*

I hope that.

*I furnished goods to him.*

I furnished him with goods.

*I have no fault to him.*

I have no fault with him, *or*, to find with  
him.

*I cannot tbink enough of such a thbing.*

I cannot help thinking of it; *or*, I am asto-  
nished, I cannot understand it.

*One would readily imagine.*

One would naturally imagine.

*Readily* properly means *with expedition*,  
*or, with little binderance or delay.*

*He will some day repent it.*

He will one day repent it.

*He is presently in London.*

He is now, *or at present*, in London.

*He*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 33

*He is colded.*

**H**e has got a cold.

The Scots also say, *he has got the cold,*  
for, *he has got a cold.*

*He is some better.*

**H**e is somewhat, or a little better.

*He is the better of such a thing.*

**H**e is the better for such a thing.

Ex. *He was much the better of (for) his  
journey to Bath.*

*He was in use to do it.*

**H**e used, or was in the habit of doing it.

*He is ten years old next May.*

**H**e was nine years old last May.

The impropriety lies in asserting a circumstance which, by the death of the person, may never happen, instead of affirming what is certain, and has already happened.

D

*He*

*He is not fit to hold water to such a one.*

He is not fit to be compared to such a one.

*It is ill your common.*

It ill becomes you.

*Come, say away.*

Come, begin.

*Have with you.*

I'll go with you.

Shakespeare makes use of, *have with you*, in his Merry Wives of Windsor, Act II, Scene I.

*Have you any word to him.*

Have you any letter, or commands, to him.

*Word*, for *command* or *message*, is an old Shakespearian phrase, now exploded. It may be also found in the English Bible.

*I am*

*I am the more impatient of pain, that I have  
biterto enjoyed good health.*

I am the more impatient of pain, as, or because, I have hitherto enjoyed good health.

This is, properly speaking, a Gallicism; another instance of which occurs in the following phrase: “*I expected to have seen you, as you said you were to be in town; and that (as, or because) you promised to call on me.*”

*Though one should meet with disappointments,  
he should never abandon himself to despair.*

Though one should meet with disappointments, one should never abandon one's self to despair.

It is observed by an ingenious critic (Remarks on the English Language, printed Anno 1770, p. 23), that *he* or *she* can

D 2                      never

never properly be introduced as relatives to the indefinite noun *one*. The impropriety will appear particularly striking, in an example, where *she* is made use of as the relative pronoun. “*Though one should be admired for grace and beauty, she should never suffer her mind to be neglected.*”

*It is bleeding.*

*It bleeds.*

*Mouly heels.*

*Kibed, or sore heels.*

*Chaped lips, or bands.*

*Chopt lips, or broken into chinks.*

*A sore head.*

*A head-ach, or pain in the head.*

*Sore*, implies *excoriation*, and cannot, therefore, with propriety, be made use of, if the head only aches.

*Sore*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 37

*Sore eyes.*

Weak or tender eyes.

*Sore eyes*, would imply their being so very bad and disagreeable to look at, that polite people rather make use of the words *weak*, or *tender*. And adding *clean*, as, *a clean shirt*, when a *plate*, *knife*, *handkerchief*, &c. is called for, is reckoned indelicate, as it implies a dread, that a *dirty plate*, &c. might be brought. *Perspire*, is also generally made use of by polite people, for *sweat*, and certainly expresses the same idea in a more delicate manner,

*Swell'd cheek,*

*Swell'd face,*

*Swell'd cheek* is more proper, but not so common in England,

*For my share,*

For my part.

*In place of.*

Instead of.

This is a Scoticism often fallen into,

*This much, and that much.*

Thus much, and so much,

*Split new.*

Quite new,

*Spick and span new,* is sometimes used  
in England.

*Our whole actions.*

All our actions.

*The whole way.*

All the way.

*The whole speeches.*

All the speeches.

Yet *the whole proceedings* is good English, on account of their forming *one whole*,

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 39

the parts of which are naturally related to each other.

## *A gone man.*

## A dead, lost, or ruined man.

Perhaps *gone*, may not be without some English examples.

## *Conviction on a thing.*

## **Conviction of a thing.**

*Independent of.*

**Independent on.**

As the verbal phrase is to *depend on*, *independent of*, a common Scoticism, in Dr. Johnson's opinion, is an improper idiom.

Here, also, it may be proper to take notice of some observations made by that excellent grammarian Dr. Priestley (*vide* his larger Grammar, p. 158.), regarding the preposition “*of*,” which Mr. Hume, and other Scotch, and indeed English wri-

ters, are apt to use as the French do their preposition “*de*,” and consequently in a manner not at all suited to the genius of the English language. Such Gallicisms would not be pardonable in a translator from the French, and are surely very culpable in an original author. Examples from Hume. “Richlieu profited of [by] every circumstance which the conjuncture afforded.” “The king of England provided of [with] every supply.” To provide a person *in*, for *with*, food and raiment, is also exceptionable. “It is situation, which decides of [concerning] the fortunes of men.” “Of [for] which he was extremely necessitous.” “He was eager of recommending it [to recommend it] to his fellow-citizens.” “The esteem which Philip had conceived of [for] the ambassador.” “An indemnity of [for] past offences.” “Youth wandering

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 48

" wandering in foreign countries, with as  
" little respect of [for] others, as prudence  
" of their own." Other examples. " You  
" know the esteem I have of [for] this  
" philosophy." " The good lady was  
" careful of serving me of [with] every  
" thing." " It might, perhaps, have given  
" me a greater taste of [for] its antiqui-  
" ties." A taste of a thing, implies ac-  
tual enjoyment; a taste for it, only signi-  
fies a capacity of enjoying.

Dr. Priestley also observes (p. 166), that though we say *to depend on*; or *to depend upon a thing*, *to promise upon a thing* is im-  
proper. Ex. " *This effect we could not be-*  
" *fore-band promise upon*," for " *we could*  
" *not before-band promise ourselves*."

*A man who writes.*

*A man who has written.*

Ex.

*Ex. Mr. Hume, who writes [has written] the History of England.* Yet it may be said, with propriety, such a one *writes the London Gazette, or the Annual Register*, because they are unfinished works, and constantly going on.

*A good hand of writ.*

*A good hand-writing.*

*A good hand of writ,* is a very common Scoticism, which ought to be most carefully avoided,

*Such a thing has been.*

*Such a thing must have been.*

*Ex. Wallace has been [must have been] a strong, as well as brave man, or he could not have done what he did.*

*This hero was not more conspicuous for his valour, than for his love of liberty.*

The

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT, 43

The following rhymes, more remarkable at the same time for their spirit, than their beauty, it is said, he used often to repeat, to encourage his followers:

“ Dico tibi verum, libertas optima rerum,  
“ Nunquam servili, sub noctu vivito fili.”

*Abundance of such a thing.*

A great deal of such a thing.

In Scotland, *abundance* is made use of for *sufficient*, or *enough*; whereas in England it means *plenty*, or *exuberance*.

*A neafful and hantle of any tbing.*

A handful, or small quantity of any thing.

*Neafful* comes from *neif*, or *neaf*, a word used by Shakespear for *fist*. *Hantle* is a corruption of *handful*. *Lock*, also, Ex. “ *a lock of sheep*,” seems to be corrupted from *flock*.

*This day eight days.*

This day se'nnight.

The

The ancient Germans, we are informed by Tacitus, counted their time by the number of nights, and not of days; and the practice, except among the French and Scots, has always been general among northern nations; probably in consequence of the shortness of their days in the winter season, compared with the greater length and duration of the night. How the Scots came to be an exception, can only be accounted for by their connection with France, and their imitation of the Gallic idiom, “*buit jours,*”

The learned Bayle, in his dissertation concerning the space of time called day, annexed to the last volume of his Critical Dictionary, § 2, has thrown together several observations upon this subject. He affirms, that in some places even in France, they say *auuict* [to-night] for *aujourd'-buy*

*day* [to-day]; and that in Germany, instead of saying *St. John's day*, and *St. Martin's day*, they say *St. John's night*, and *St. Martin's night*. They must avoid, therefore, such strange anomalies as, *this day se'nnight*, and *this day fortnight*.

*This day se'nnight*, and *this day fortnight*, are certainly odd phrases, and, strictly speaking, improper. But, as the Scots make use of *this day fortnight*, and not of *this day fifteen days*, as the French do of *quinze jours*, as well as *buit jours*, it is incongruous not to adopt the one phrase as well as the other.

*Tuesday come se'nnight*, *Tuesday was se'nnight*, &c.

*Tuesday se'nnight*.

The English suppose they can understand from the rest of the sentence, whether time past,

past, or time to come, is meant ; and the Scots may pay themselves the compliment of believing it is in their power to do the same.

*Once in the two days.*

Every other day.

*Every other day*, implies that one day intervenes between the other ; whereas *once in the two days*, does not mean alternately, and leaves it uncertain, whether one day intervenes or two.

*Once in the week, or year.*

Once a week, or year.

Ex. *I ride out once in the [a] week.* The, only denotes *one particular week*. Whereas the article *a*, has an indefinite signification, and stands for *any*, or *every*.

*Half*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 47

*Half six o'clock, &c.*

Half an hour past five, or, half an hour to  
six o'clock.

Yet this ellipsis, as Mr. Elphinston observes, is almost as easily supplied, as in the English phrase of *half after five*, for, *half an hour after five*, &c.

*The first of a month or year.*

The beginning of a month or year.

Ex. An event that happened on the second, or third of January, according to the Scotch dialect, happened in *the first of the month*, and *the first of the year*.

*The morrow's morning.*

To-morrow morning.

*Sunday's morning.*

Sunday morning.

*To-morrow forenoon. (Usually in England)*

~~to~~ tomorrow morning.

*The*

48      OBSERVATIONS ON

*The morn's night.*

To-morrow night.

*Morn*, says Dr. Johnson, is not used but by the poets, at least in England.

*Yesternight.*

Last night.

But the English say, *yesterday*, and not *last day*, as the Scots do. Ex. *I saw him the last day* (for yesterday, or the other day) *in town.*

*The strein, or yestrein.*

Yesterday evening.

*Strein*, seems to be a corruption of the Latin *beſternus*; and *yestrein*, of *yester even.*

*Last barvest.*

Last autumn.

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The third season of the year, is almost universally called *harvest*, instead of *autumn*, in Scotland.

*Fresh weather.*

Open weather.

*Coarse weather.*

Rough, or stormy weather.

*The length of such a place.*

As far as such a place.

*Length*, for *distance*, is made use of by Clarendon, but not by more modern authors.

*The knock strikes.*

The clock strikes.

*Clocks* are called *knocks*, in some parts of Scotland, from the noise they make.

*The clock is bebind.*

The clock is slow, or goes slow.

*Time about.*

*Alternately.*

*A few days thereafter.*

*A few days after.*

*Thereafter*, for *after*, is a common Scoticism. It properly means *accordingly*, or *according to*, and not *after that time*, or *that period*.

*The plight of the season* (old English, for)

*The height of the season.*

When every thing is in good *case*, or *plight*.

*He is twenty years, or thereby.*

*Or thereabout.*

*Thereby*, is properly, *by means of that*, and not *about that*, or *near that*.

*A tour of visits.*

*A round, or number of visits.*

*A great*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT.      51

*A great many company.*

Much company, a great deal of company,  
or, a great many people.

*All our friends and acquaintances.*

All our friends and acquaintance.

At least acquaintance is preferable.

*Bef<sup>t</sup> man and bef<sup>t</sup> maid.*

Bride-man and bride-maid.

Indeed the Scots and English affix a different meaning to the word *bride*, which is, properly, *one who has been lately married*, and not *one going to be married*, according to the Scotch idiom. The former also make use of *tocher*, an Erse word, for *dower*, or *portion*; and *jo*, from *joie*, French, for *sweetheart*.

*A fine flower.*

A fine nosegay.

52      OBSERVATIONS ON

A *flower* is only a single one; a bunch, or bouquet of *flowers*, is properly a *nosegay*.

*A fine lad.*

A very good kind of lad; or, a very good young man.

*A fine girl.*

A good-natured, good kind of girl.

In England, *a fine girl*, means not a good-natured, but a showy, and handsome girl; and *a fine lady*, one who is nice in her dress, and affected in her sentiments and behaviour.

*A pretty man.*

A polite, sensible man.

*A pretty man*, in England, is a despicable character, the words implying *beauty of person*, with scarcely any other accomplishment;

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 53

ment; but in Scotland, it is often used in the sense of *graceful, beautiful with dignity, or well accomplished.*

*A gentlemanly man.*

*A gentlemanlike, or gentlemanly man.*

*A young man,*

*A bachelor,*

In the English version of the Bible, *young man* is made use of in the same sense.

*An old wife.*

*An old woman,*

None are *wives* but such as are married, which old women sometimes are not,

*The London copy (of a book),*

*The London edition.*

*A good thing by-hand,*

*A good thing over.*

*Out of band.*

Immediately.

Ex. *He did such a thing out of band, for, he did it immediately.* At the same time, *out of band*, may be found both in Spenser and Shakespear, and is still occasionally used.

*Simply impossible.*

Absolutely impossible.

*Or then.*

Before then.

Ex. *I should be glad to see you or (before) then.*

*As such a thing.*

Than such a thing.

Ex. *I love claret better as (than) port, and still better as (than) white-wine.*

---

*Sometimes*

*Sometimes the Scotch and English dialects only differ in orthography, of which the following words are instances.*

*Admirality.*

*Admiralty.*

The Scots indeed frequently pronounce *admiralty*, *admirality*; deriving that word from the Latin *admiralitas*, and not as the English do, from the French *ammiralté*. *Pin*, by the vulgar, also, is generally called *prin*, another singular corruption in the pronunciation, or the orthography. And in some parts of Scotland, particularly in the north, *bumble*, is very improperly pronounced *bumeble*, as if the *u* had the sound in that word that it has in *bumility*,

*Bankier,*

*Banker,*

*Connection.*

Connexion.

Yet the English universally write *collection*, and *reflection*; and some authors have even given *connection* the preference.

*Impostures.*

Impostors.

*Sirname, (usually)*

Surname.

*Ordernance, or ordinance,*

Ordnance.

*Encugb.*

Enough.

*Oeconomy, (now commonly written)*

Economy.

*Compleat.*

Complete.

*Descendents.*

Descendants.

*Defendants*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 57

*Descendants* is preferable, because it is proper to make a distinction between the noun and the adjective. Yet the English write *independents*, and not *independants*, which they ought to do by analogy,

*Desireable and resolveable,*

*Desirable and resolvable,*

*Incomfortable.*

*Uncomfortable.*

*Likeways.*

*Likewise,*

*Otherways.*

*Otherwife,*

The two last being the most common, ought to be particularly guarded against.

The Scots are also apt to err in spelling the plural of words ending in *y*, in general *ys*, instead of *ies*. Ex. *familys*, for *families*; *extremitys*, for *extremities*, &c.

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Sometimes the Scots use the singular for the plural, the plural for the singular, and a noun for an adjective,

*You was.*

*You were.*

This is an impropriety which even Mr. Hume was guilty of. *You*, is confessedly plural; and therefore the verb, agreeably to the analogy of all languages, ought to be in the plural also. Indeed, if *you*, were a pronoun singular, *you waſt*, and not *you was*, would be the proper idiom.

*Three ſheet of paper.*

*Three sheets of paper,*

*A ſtair.*

*Stairs, or a pair of stairs.*

*A ſtair*, in modern English, is not the whole order of the steps, but only one step, or one small division of the *stairs*. There is

is also a distinction between *stairs* and *steps*.  
*Stairs* are those within the house; *steps* those without.

*Mean.*

*Means.*

Ex. *It will be the mean* (the means) *of procuring such a thing.* But care should be taken, as Dr. Johnson well remarks, not to make use of *means* with a pronoun singular; an error which is often fallen into, even by good writers. Ex. *He carried it through by these* (and not by that) *means.* Hence Mr. Hume has ungrammatically said (Hist. Vol. VIII. p. 65.), *left this means,* for, *these means, should fail.*

*Severals.*

*Several.*

This word has no plural termination; but though *several*s is improper, *others* may be used.

*Two*

60      OBSERVATIONS ON

*Two weeks.*

A fortnight.

*Two alternatives.*

One alternative.

Ex. *As you may either marry, or live single, you have two very good alternatives, for, one very good alternative. Two alternatives, would mean the choice of four things,*

*No objections,*

No objection.

Ex. "*I have no objections (objection) to ride out with you to-day.*"

*Your favours.*

Your favour.

*But I received your favours of the fifth and tenth current, &c. is proper. In favours of, for, in favour of, is however exceptionable,*

*Jahn*

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 61

*John and Charles Thomsons*; and the like.  
John and Charles Thomson.

*The broth are very good.*

The broth is very good.

It is a common error in Scotland to suppose that *broth*, *cabbage*, *spinnage*, and *pot-tage*, or *porridge*, are in the plural number. N. B. *He has got bis broth*, is a common Scotch phrase, for, *be is tipsy*.

*The Aberdeen's Journal.*

The Aberdeen Journal.

*Aberdeen* is here made use of (says Dr. Beattie) as an adjective, and consequently the addition of 's, denoting the genitive case, is highly ungrammatical; for English adjectives have no case, gender, or number.

---

*The*

*The Scotch and English dialects, also differ  
in arrangement.*

*Give me it, show me it.*

Give it me, show it me.

*Any body else's.*

Any body's else.

*A pretty enough girl.*

A pretty girl enough.

Dr. Priestley observes, that an adjective should not be separated from its substantive, even by words which modify its meaning, and make but one sense with it. Hence he objects to the following phrases of Mr. Hume's: *A large enough number surely, for a number large enough. The lower sort of people are good enough judges of one not very distant from them, for are judges good enough. Ten thousand is a large enough base, for a base large enough.*

**A** picktooth.

**A** toothpick.

**A** picktooth-cafe.

**A** toothpick-cafe.

Picktooth, and picktooth-cafe, may be found even in Swift, but are now accounted Scoticisms. An English wag being asked why he gave toothpick the preference, replied, "That, for his part, he put *tooth* first, because one must have teeth, before it was necessary to pick them."

*Tomkins Leslie*; and the like.

Leslie Tomkins.

Double surnames are placed differently by the Scots and English. For in England, the name a person wishes to be particularly known by, is put last, and in Scotland first. Ex. A person that has two names, suppose *Leslie* and *Tomkins*, and wishes to be called

*Mr.*

64      OBSERVATIONS ON

*Mr. Tomkins*, in Scotland must call himself *Tomkins Leslie*, and in England, *Leslie Tomkins.*

---

*There are other examples of improper arrangement, which, though not the monopoly of Scotland, yet ought to be avoided.*

*I better bad.*

*I had better.*

*As ever I saw.*

*As I ever saw.*

To which may be added, *fork and knife*, for *knife and fork*; *milk and bread*, for *bread and milk*; *butter and bread*, for *bread and butter*; *pepper and vinegar*, for *vinegar and pepper*; *paper, pen, and ink*, for *pen, ink, and paper*. The ear is the best dictator of arrangement, and the English, in general, assign the first place to the most important

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 83

portant article, and the last to the longest word.

---

*The Scots are also fond of expletives, and sometimes of ellipses.*

*Say the grace.*

*Say grace.*

*The seventeen hundred and forty-five.*

*Seventeen hundred and forty-five.*

*Ex. Such a thing happened in the 1745;*  
is a phrase by which a Scotchman might  
be distinguished. *The forty-five*, for *sev-*  
*teen hundred and forty-five*, is an ellipse pe-  
culiar to Scotland.

*Go to the school, or church.*

*Go to school, or church.*

*Notwithstanding of that.*

*Notwithstanding that.*

66      OBSERVATIONS ON

Mr. Hume is often guilty of this impropriety. Ex. “ *Notwithstanding of this un-lucky example.*” “ *Notwithstanding of the numerous panegyricks on the ancient English liberty.*” In such cases, the preposition *of* is surely superfluous, and ought to have been avoided.

*A little more of bread.*

A little more bread.

*Will you stay to dinner, tea, &c.*

Will you stay dinner.

*Will you stay to dine with us,* with propriety may be used.

*To be a missing.*

To be missing.

*I love for to do good.*

I love to do good.

*For to,* at the same time, is in the English version of the Bible.

*I gave*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 67

*I gave him a pen for till write with.*

I gave him a pen to write with.

This idiom has now become vulgar,  
even in Scotland.

*I was not so well last winter.*

I was not well last winter.

It is improper to say *so well*, unless as follows: Ex. *I was not so well last winter,*  
*as I was the winter before.*

---

The ellipses are equally numerous; for instance,

*Is he in?*

*Is he within?*

*Goat milk and whey.*

Goat's milk and whey.

*A bit bread, paper, &c.*

A bit of bread, paper, &c.,

68      OBSERVATIONS ON

*A justice of peace.*

*A justice of the peace.*

' In writing, it is always *a justice of the peace.*

*The penult.*

*The penultima.*

*Herodote.*

*Herodotus.*

*At worst.* [Hume's Hist. Vol. vi. p. 435.]

*At the worst.*

*To go out walking.*

*To go out a walking.*

*To be out riding.*

*To be out a riding.*

*He wrote me.*

*He wrote to me, or he wrote me a letter.*

*'Tis a week since he left this.*

*'Tis a week since he left this place.*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 69

*I shall quarrel you.*

*I shall quarrel with you.*

---

*There are also many false formations in the  
Scottish dialect, which ought to be avoided;  
as*

*Tremenduous.*

*Tremendous.*

*Momentuous, monstuous.*

*Momentous, monstrous.*

*Keeps, sweeped.*

*Kept, swept.*

*Keeped.*

*Kept,*

*Pled.*

*Pleaded.*

*Catched.*

*Caught.*

70      OBSERVATIONS ON

Ex. *He catched* (caught) *cold*. This is a very common Scoticism, formerly current in England.

*Teach't.*

Taught.

*Proven, improven, &c.*

Proved, improved, &c.

*Run, drunk.*

Ran, drank.

At least, *he ran a great way, and he drank a great deal*, is preferable.

*Hings.*

Hangs.

Ex. Which in some cave, or vaulted cavern *hings*,  
Woven thick with complicated feet and wings.

Epigoniad, Book ix. p. 285.

---

*The*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 71

*The Scots are also apt to mutilate the termination of time past, in verbs ending with t, as breakfast; or te, as educate. For example;*

*Have you breakfast,*

Have you breakfasted.

*Are you acquaint with him.*

Are you acquainted with him.

*The house is well situate.*

The house is well situated.

*Where was be educate?*

Where was he educated?

*The enemy was defeat.*

The enemy was defeated.

*He dedicate his book.*

He dedicated his book,

*He communicate it.*

He communicated it.

Yet, in the Psalms, it is said, *they are confederate against thee.*

---

*But there is nothing that the inhabitants of Scotland are so apt to err in, as in the use they make of shall and will, should and would, these and those: at the same time, it is easier to remark the difference, than to explain the principles on which it ought to be corrected.*

*The principal error of the Scots, in their use of shall and will, originates from supposing shall, more emphatical and expressive in the first persons singular and plural, than will; though it might be supported by some examples from the old poets, yet is far from being the case in modern poetry, and far less in modern prose. For instance,*

*I will*

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 73

*I will come, we will come*—denotes, *I am determined to come*, and implies a firm resolution, a promise, or a threat.

*Thou wilt come, he will come, ye will come, they will come*—expresses futurity merely.

*I shall come, we shall come*—only foretels what may happen.

*Thou shalt come, he shall come, ye shall come, they shall come*.—In these persons, *shall* continues the emphatical sense of *will*, and implies a promise, a threat, or a command.

As an instance of the different manner in which the Scots and English use *shall* and *will*, in the first person singular, a story is told of a Scotchman, who having fallen into a river in England, had almost perished in it, in consequence of his calling out,

*I will,*

*I will, for I shall be drowned*; the spectators having for some time hesitated, whether they should venture their own lives for the safety of one, who, as they were led to imagine, was determined to make away with himself.

*Will I do this, or that, for shall I*, is not unusual in Scotland. “*Will I help you to a bit of beef? &c.*” for example, is a common phrase at the tables of Scotchmen; and as it properly means *am I willing to help you?* and, consequently does not necessarily denote any inclination in the speaker, it is far from being suited to the hospitable character of our countrymen. *Will I buy a borse?* for *shall I*, is also a very improper expression; for, if it means any thing at all, it would imply, “*am I resolved to buy a borse?*” It may be observed, with Dr. Priestley, when a question is asked, that

*shall,*

*ʃhall*, in the first person, is used in a sense different from both its other senses. For, *Shall I write?* for instance, means, *Is it your pleasure that I should write?* But *will*, in the second person, reverts to its other usual sense; for, *Will you write?* means, *Is it your intention to write or not?*

There is reason to believe, says Mr. Hume, that the Scotch was the old method of using *ʃhall* and *will*; but that it was gradually altered, as the English grew more polite. It became the courtesy of England to make use of *will*, when speaking to others, or of *them*, because that term implies *volition* only, even where the event must happen; and *ʃhall*, when speaking of themselves, which implies *constraint*, though the event is the subject of choice,

It is also in the first persons singular and plural, that the Scots are most apt to err, in the use they make of *should* and *would*. *I would*, implies only *an inclination in the speaker*. *I should*, an *obligation upon him*, with or without inclination. *In vain would we do such a thing*, means, *in vain would we have the inclination to do it*. *In vain should we do such a thing*, implies, *in vain should we carry it into execution*. Mr. Hume observes, where a condition, and the consequence of that condition, is expressed in a sentence, that the former, in the second and third persons, always requires *should*, and the latter *would*. Ex. *If he should fall, he would break his leg*.

*This*, is the plural of *this*, and *those*, of *that*; consequently the former expresses what is near and definite, and the latter, what

what is more indefinite and remote. The Scots principally err in using *thesē*, as the plural of *that*. Ex. *One of theſe days*, for *one of thoſe days*. Where a relative is to follow, and the ſubject has not been mentioned before, *thesē* is excluded, but either *the*, or *thoſe*, may be made uſe of. *The*, where the demonstration is general. *Thoſe*, where it is particular, or ſpecific: as, *the kingdoms*, or, *thoſe kingdoms, which Alexander conquered, and the obſervations, or thoſe obſervations which he made.*

## C H A P. II.

*Words peculiar to the Scots, or, which they  
use in a sense different from the English.*

THAT the Scots should indulge a strong partiality in favour of their own dialect, is the less to be wondered at, when we consider how many words are now condemned as Scoticisms, which were formerly admired for their strength and beauty, and may still be found in the writings of Chaucer, of Spenser, of Shakespeare, and other celebrated English authors. Indeed, many words in the old English or Scottish dialects, are so emphatical and significant, that, as Ruddiman observes, it is difficult to find words in the modern English capable of expressing their full

full force, and genuine meaning. But what our language has lost in strength, it has gained in elegance and correctness.

In the following Glossary, as it may be called, it is proposed to follow an alphabetical order, and to arrange the words under four general heads, namely, *verbs*, *adjectives*, *nouns*, and *particles*. With little difficulty it might have been extended to a much greater length: but I wished not to include the words which have grown obsolete among the Scots themselves, nor to trouble the reader with tedious observations of an etymological nature. I have endeavoured, however, with the assistance of Dr. Johnson, Mr. Ray, and that excellent glossarist Ruddiman, to gratify the curiosity of those who may wish to know from what language any particular word is supposed to be derived, or with which of the northern dialects

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dialects it may be more immediately connected. For as the most learned of our English Lexicographers has observed, the Dutch, the Belgick, and the German, like our language, are derived from the Teutonic, and are therefore to be accounted, not the parents, but the sisters of the English.

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## V E R B S.

Scotch. *To big* [Saxon and Islandic.]

*English.* To build.

*Biggins*, is also a Scotch word, for *buildings*.

*To birlie.*

To drink cheerfully, to carouse.

*To chap* (as to *chap* at a door) [choppet, Fr.]

To knock, or strike.

*To*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 81

*To choise* [choisir, Fr.]

To chuse.

*To cleek* [from click].

To snatch or catch.

*To clek* [Saxon].

To hatch.

*To clout* [clouer, Fr.]

To beat.

*To cry*. (as, *cry bim*).  
To call.

*To cryn* [Belgick].

To dry, or shrink in.

*To dearn* [Saxon].

To darn, or to mend cloaths.

*To deburſe* [debourſer, Fr.]

To disburse.

*Deboursement* is also sometimes made use  
of by the Scots, for *disbursement*.

*To deduce* (in arithmetic).

To deduct or subtract.

*To deduce*, properly means *to draw from*, or *to form conclusions from premises*.

*To demit* [demitto, Latin].

To resign.

And *demission*, not for *dismission*, but *resignation*.

*To desiderate* [desidero, Latin].

To wish for.

*Desiderate* is a word scarcely used, says Dr. Johnson.

*To detract* [detractum, Latin].

To take away in general.

In England, *detracting* only refers to fame, or reputation.

*To ding* [Dutch].

To drive, or dash.

To

*To discharge*, (for)

To charge, prohibit, or forbid.

Ex. " *I discharged* (forbid) *bim to go*  
" *out to-day.*"

*To evite* [evito, Latin].

To evitate, or avoid.

*To exem* [eximo, Latin].

To exempt.

*To fash* [facher, Fr.]

To tease, trouble, or vex.

*Fash* is still used in Cumberland; *vide*  
Ralph's Poems and Glossary, voce *fash*.

*To feel*, (erroneously for)

To smell.

Ex. " You complain much of that tan-  
" nery, but I cannot say I *feel* it."

*To ferly* [Saxon].

To wonder.

And *aferly*, for, *a wonder*.

*To find*, (erroneously for)

To feel.

Ex. “*I am much burt, find where it  
“ pains me.*”

*To fleicb* [fleichir, Fr.]

To flatter, or coax.

Even *coax*, though used in England, is reckoned vulgar.

*To flit* [rhymes hit, Danish].

To remove any thing in general, particularly furniture.

*Flit*, is still a provincial word in England.

*To fyt* [rhymes flight, Saxon].

To chide, or scold.

*To gab*, (a corruption of)

To gabble.

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 85

*To gang* [Saxon, and Low Dutch].

To go.

*Gang* is an old word, says Dr. Johnson, not now used, except ludicrously.

*To gar* [Danish].

To make.

*To girm* (corrupted from grin).

To snarl.

*Girn*, it is said, is still in use among the northern English.

*To glee* [Saxon].

To squint.

*To gleek* [Saxon].

To gibe, or sneer.

*To gloom* [Saxon].

To frown, or look sullen.

*To glout*.

To pout.

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*To glowl, or gloar* [Dutch].

To stare.

*To green.*

To long for, or vehemently desire,

*To greet* [Islandic].

To weep.

Some erroneously derive *greet* from the Italian *gridare*, to cry, or weep.

*To bad* (as *bad your band*) [Gothic].

To hold.

*To bain.*

To save.

Perhaps derived from *baine*, Fr. from the spite and hatred with which avarice is attended.

*To hap* (corrupted from *heap*).

To wrap.

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 87

*To barry* [harer, Fr.]

To rob or plunder.

*To bire.*

To let.

The Scotch use *bire*, as the French do *louer*, which signifies both *to bire*, or *to get* the temporary use of any thing, and *to let*, or *give it*.

*To bouk, or bolk* [Saxon].

To dig.

*To jape* [japper, Fr.]

To bespatter.

*To inbance* (any commodity).

To engrofs.

*To jouk* [jucher, Fr.]

To bend, or incline the head.

But *jowkerry*, in the compound word *jowkerry pawkry*, comes from the verb, *joubler*, to juggle.

*To keek.*

To peep.

*To ken* [Saxon],

To know.

*To ken*, is still used in poetry, for *to descry*.

*To kep* [capto, Latin],

To catch or meet.

*To kilt* [Danish].

To tuck up.

*To kittle* [Saxon],

To tickle.

*To learn.*

To teach.

In many of the European languages, the same word signifies *to gain*, and *to impart knowledge*: and it is the case in England as well as Scotland; but good writers will always make a distinction between them.

*To lippin* [Saxon].

To rely on, to trust to.

*To lout* [Saxon].

To bow down.

*To lowe* [Dutch].

To flame.

*To maltreat* [maltraiter, Fr.]

To abuse.

I believe *maltreat* is sometimes, though not often, used by the English.

*To mant* [ $\mu \alpha v r o \mu \alpha i$ , Gr.]

To stammer;

Or to *hesitate in speaking*, as the persons who pronounced the Heathen Oracles affected to do, when they pretended to be inspired.

*To mind*, (erroneously for)

To remind, or remember.

Ex. “*My sister* (said a devout and wor-  
“thy lady) *can repeat a discourse from be-*  
“*ginning to end, but for me, I never mind*  
“*sermons.*” It may, at the same time, be  
observed, that the Scottish idiom was for-  
merly an English one,

*To misgive, (erroneously for)*  
*To fail, or miscarry.*

*To misgive*, does not properly signify *to fail*, in the general sense of that word, but only *a failure, or want of confidence in the mind*; and it is always used with the reciprocal pronoun: Ex. “*His heart misgave him.*”

*To misguide, (erroneously for)*  
*To fully, or abuse.*

Ex. “*He misguides his cloaths;*” which is a counterpart to the phrase, “*he is a good guide of them.*”

*To*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 91

*To mynt* (from mind).

To aim at, or have a mind to.

*To narrate* [narrō, Latin].

To relate, or tell.

Yet *narrative*, and *narration*, are good English,

*To neeze* [Danish],

To sneeze.

*To occupy*, (better)

To employ.

Ex. “ *I am much occupied* (employed)  
“ *about such a thing at present.*”

*To pewther* (corrupted from pother).

To canvass.

*To pingle* [Belgic].

To strive, or labour hard,

*To poach* (a cant word).

To make wet, or marshy,

*To*

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*To prie* (corrupted from prove).

To try, or taste.

*Prieve* is made use of by Spenser.

*To prig* [from *prog*, corrupted from *procure*].

To higgle, or haggle.

*To remeed*, (erroneously for)

To remedy.

*To refet* [from *set*].

To harbour,

*To restrict* [*restrictus*, Latin].

To limit, or confine.

*Restrict*, is a word scarcely English, says Dr. Johnson.

*To ripe* (as *ripe your pockets*).

To rifle.

*To roar* (as *the child roars*).

To cry, or weep.

To

*To rove* (in a fever).

To be light-headed, or delirious.

*To skail* [echeveler, Fr.]

To scatter.

*To skar* [from *scar*].

To frighten.

*To flocken* [Icelandic].

To quench, or slake.

*To smit* [from *smite*].

To infect.

*To snuff.*

To take snuff.

Ex. " *He snuffs a great deal*, for, *he takes a great deal of snuff.*" This is a very common Scoticism.

*To spane*, [a child, Saxon].

To wean.

*To*

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*To wiffen* [Saxon].

To dry, or wither.

*To yoke* (as *yoke the horses*).

To harness, or put to.

*Yoke*, is a term confined to oxen, except in poetry, where a greater licence is permitted. Both the Scots and English make use of this ridiculous phrase, *put the horses into the carriage*. *To be well yoked*, for matched together, is a phrase peculiar to Scotland.

*To yowl* (corrupted from *bowl*).

To howl.

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A D J E C

A D J E C T I V E S.

*Auldvarand.*

Witty, or clever beyond expectation.

Beyond what is usual at any particular age, possibly derived from *auld varand*, *old traveller*, the *vieux routier*, of the French.

*Bedfast.*

Confined to bed; bedrid.

*Blate*, or *bleit* [Saxon].

Bashful.

*Blyth* [Saxon].

Gay, or merry.

*Blytb* still exists in poetry, particularly in songs.

*Bonny* [bonne, Fr.]

Pretty, handsome.

H

*Bofs*

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*Bosf* [bosse, Fr.]

Hollow.

*Bygone*, (used by Shakespear for)  
Past.

*Bypast* is also a term of the Scottish dia-  
lect.

*Caller* (corrupted from *colder*).  
Fresh.

Perhaps *caller*, in the phrase, “*a caller*”  
“*egg*,” comes from *cailler*, to curdle, from  
the white of a fresh egg resembling curds.

*Cankert* (from *canker*).  
Cross; ill-natured.

At least, *cankert* is an expressive word,  
growing daily more obsolete in England.

*Canty* [canto, Latin].  
Hearty, cheerful.

*Clamant*

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*Clamant* [clamosus, Latin].

Clamorous; noisy; loud.

*Clarty.*

Dirty.

*Clever*, (erroneously made use of for)

Quick, active, or handy.

*Clever*, is either derived from *cleave*; or, perhaps, it comes from the Scotch word *claver*, to talk; or *prattle*; which quick and active people are apt to do. The English, it may be observed, never use *cleverness* for *quickness*, nor *clever* for *quick*.

*Clear* (when applied to solids).

Bright;

Ex. "How clear (bright) the table is."

*Comatable* [from *come*].

Attainable.

*Conform*, (more usually)

Conformable, or according to.

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*Disconform* is not an English word.

*Corky.*

Airy, brisk.

*Curt* [curtus, Latin].

Brief.

Also *curlly*, for *briefly*, and *curtness*, for *brevity*, or *briefness*.

*Difficulted.*

Puzzled, or perplexed.

*Discreet* [discret, Fr.]

Civil, or obliging.

Ex. “ *He is a very discreet (civil) man,*  
“ *it is true, but his brother has more discre-*  
“ *tion (civility).*” This is a very common  
Scoticism.

*Distressed.*

Pained.

*Distress,*

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*Distress*, is properly applied to the anguish of the mind, not to the pain of the body.

*Dorty*.

Pettish, humourfome.

*Douce* [douce, Fr.]

Sedate.

*Dreigh* (from *draw*, or *dry*).

Long, tedious.

*Drumly* [corrupted, it is said, from trouble, French].

Muddy, thick.

*Dull*, (used erroneously for)

Deaf.

*Dyre* [durus, Latin].

Hard, difficult.

*Fendy* (from *find*).

Dexterous at finding out expedients.

Ray says, *fendy* is derived from *defend*.

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*Fensable*, now spelt *fencible* (from *defencible*).

Fit for war.

*Flory* (corrupted from *flowerry*).

Showey, vain.

*Footless* (from *foot*).

Stumbling.

*Gentle*, (made use of by Shakespear for)

High-spirited.

*Vide Humphrey Clinker*, Vol. II. p. 182.

*Gim*, (an old word for)

Neat, or spruce.

*Gimmy*, is still in use in England.

*Iniquous*, (in English)

Iniquitous, or unjust.

*Laigh* (as, *a laigh-house to let*).

Low.

*Landwart*

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*Landwart* (pronounced *landred*).

Aukward, rustick.

*Landwart*, is properly *inland*, towards the land or country; the idea of rusticity seems to have been taken from a notion, that the interior parts of the country are more barbarous and uncivilized than those of the sea-coast.

*Large* (as, *fodder is large*).

Plentiful, or in plenty.

*Light-beaded*, (properly)

Giddy, or delirious.

*Lyart* [Saxon].

Grayheaded,

*Misfortunate*, (in England always)

Unfortunate.

*Mista'en*.

Mistaken.

*Mickle* [Saxon].

Much.

It is singular that a Saxon word, *mickle*, should grow obsolete, in consequence of the introduction of a word from the Spanish, from whence *much* is derived,

*Oldiſh*, (better)

Elderly.

*Pawky* [from *pawkis*, Saxon].

Sly, cunning.

*Pitiful*, (improperly for)

Piteous.

*Pointed* (as, *a pointed man*).

Punctual, accurate.

*Precipitant*.

Precipitate.

Mr. Hume also uses *precipitantly*, for *precipitately*. Dr. Priestley, who makes this

this observation, likewise objects to *informalities*, made use of by the same author, for *illegalities*; *disobligation* (though used by Clarendon), for *offence*, or *cause of disgust*; and *circuituity*, for *circuit*.

*Proportional*, (better)

Proportionable.

*Quheen*, or *wheen* [Belgic].

Few, not many.

Ex. “ *A quheen* (few), were present on  
“ *that occasion*.”

*Scots*.

Scottish, or Scotch.

*Scots*, is the name of the nation; but the proper adjective is *Scottish*, abbreviated into *Scotch*. *Vide* Priestley’s Grammar, p. 79. When alone, in general, it should be written *Scottish*, but perhaps *Scotch*, when joined with English, for the sake of variety. Ex. *The Scottish*

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*Scottish language, but, the Scotch and English dialects.*

*Scrimp* [Danish]

Little, or scanty,

From the same word, in the Danish or German language, *sbrimp* is derived,

*Sbaal*, (corrupted from)

Shallow,

*Short-sighted*, (more usually)

Near-sighted.

A *near-sighted man*, is one that can only see objects when they are near him : A *short-sighted man*, is one that cannot see at a distance. They are both in use ; but *short-sighted* is properly applied to the mind only, and *near-sighted* to the person,

*Short-winded.*

Short-breathed,

The

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The first is applied to horses, the second  
to men.

*Sib* [Saxon],

Akin.

*Sicker* [securus, Latin],

Sure, certain.

*Slim* [Belgic].

Slender bodied,

*Slim*, though used by Addison, is not  
now common in England.

*Snack* (from *snatch*),

Alert, or clever,

*Snell* [Saxon].

Sharp, piercing.

*Sparse* [spargo, Latin],

Wide,

*Stingy*,

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*Stingy*, (properly *covetous*, used by the Scots  
for)

Proud.

*Strapping* (a ludicrous word).

Tall.

*Sweet-blooded*.

Mild, or amiable,

*Sweir* [Saxon].

Slow, lazy.

*Tender* (as, *Pope was a tender man*).

Sickly.

*Delicate*, is another adjective which the Scots and English use in different senses: For by *delicate*, the Scots mean *sickly*, and the English *beautiful*, or *pleasing*. These senses of the words *tender*, and *delicate*, the Scots seem to have taken from the French, who make use of *delicat*, in the same sense

as

as *foible* (weak, or feeble); and *tendre*, for  
*douillet* (unable to bear any hardship).

*Thain* (as, *the meat is thain*).

Raw, little done.

*Thrang*, or *tbrong*.

Crowded.

*Tbrong* should never be used as an adjective. *They are very tbrong*, for *intimate together*, is a very common Scoticism.

*Toom* [Danish].

Empty, hollow.

*Verfant*, (made use of improperly for)  
Conversant.

*Warm*, (in the extreme, properly)  
Hot, or fultry.

*Warre*, (used by Spenser for)  
Worse.

*We,*

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*We, wie, or wee.*

Little,

*Well advanced (as, the field is well advanced, considering the coldness of the season).*

Forward.

*Well-looked.*

Personal, handsome.

Even *well-looking*, though better, is exceptionable.

*Well-natured; (better)*

Kind, or good-natured.

*Yaip* (corrupted from *gape*).

Eager, or hungry.

*Youthy.*

Youthful.

---

N O U N S.

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N O U N S.

*An abbacy* [abatia, Low Latin].

An abbey.

*An abbacy*, is the rights and privileges of an abbot; not the monastery, or abbey, of which he is the head.

*An account*, (erroneously made use of in Scotland for)

A bill.

*Accounts* are confined to money negotiations only: Hence they say in England, *an account with a banker*, but, *a tradesman's bill*.

*Arles, earls, or arlespenny* [arrha, Latin].

Earneſt.

*A baggage trunk.*

*A travelling trunk.*

*A bairn, or bearn.*

*A child.*

*Bearn*, is made use of by Shakespeare, Winter's Tale, Act III. Scene 7.; by Donne, in his Satires, and indeed was a very common old English word. Mr. Ray derives it from the Syriac, *bar, filius*; but it is more probably of Saxon original.

*Baubee*, (an old English word for)  
Halfpenny.

*Boadle*, for, *half a farthing*, stands in the same predicament, and is still known in Lancashire.

*Beltain*.

May-day.

Derived from *beal*, or *bealan*, the *baal of Scripture*, which, in the old language of Gaul, signified *the sun*. *Bealtan*, in the Celtic, is *the fire of the Deity*. As to *beltain*, *vide* an Essay on the Antiquity of the Irish Language, printed anno 1772, p. 9, and 19.

*A bicker* [Italian].

A wooden mug.

Perhaps *bicker*, is only another mode of spelling the English word *beaker*, used by Pope for a cup, with a spout in the form of a bird's beak.

*A blenk*, or *blink* [Belgic].

A twinkling of fair-weather; a glimpse of light.

*A brash*.

A slight fit of sickness.

*A brig*, (an old English word for)

A bridge.

It is still used in that sense in Lancashire and Cambridgeshire; but, in other parts of England, *a brig* generally signifies only a two-masted vessel.

I

*A bodr*,

*A boar*, (sometimes used for)

A bear.

*Bears*, are wild animals; *boars*, male swine.

*Body*.

Soul, creature.

Ex. “*What a good body, for, good soul, or creature, it is.*”

*Burial*, or *burying*, (better)

Funeral.

Ex. “*He had a very magnificent burying (funeral).*” *Burial*, is the act of *burying*.

*A carle* [Saxon].

A churl, or old man.

*A carling*.

An old woman.

*The cefs* [from *census*, Latin].

The king’s, or land tax.

Ex.

*Cess*, in England, means a levy or tax upon property in general, personal as well as landed.

*A chambermaid.*

A housemaid.

*Chambermaids*, are upper *housemaids*; and some adopt this distinction, the *chambermaid* of an inn, but the *housemaid* in private habitations.

*A chest.*

A coffin.

Hence *chestning* (or the act of inclosing the corpse in a coffin) is derived, a solemn rite at the funerals of Scotchmen.

*A cloakbag*, (an old word for)

A portmanteau.

*A communing* (from *to commune*).

A meeting, or conversation.

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*A communing*, in Scotland, is a meeting to converse on any particular subject. *A free communing*, is a meeting where the parties are on little ceremony with each other.

*Complexion.*

*Colour, bloom.*

The *complexion* is properly *the colour of the skin*, whether dark, brown, or fair; whereas *colour*, means *the bloom of the cheek, or the appearance of blood in the face*: Both these words are used in opposite senses by the Scots:

*A compliment.*

*A present.*

*A compliment*, is properly an expression of civility; *a present*, is a gift. Ex. "He  
" made me a present of this book, and at the  
" same time complimented me, with saying  
" that

"*that I deserved something better.*" The Scots also say, *I got such a thing in (for as) a present.*

*Dubiety.*

*Doubt.*

But *dubiety* may be found in Clarendon.

*Escutcheon.*

*Achivement, or hatchment.*

*Escutcheons*, are the arms of one particular family; *atchievements*, corrupted into *batchments*, contain also the arms of the nearest relations, ornamented with all the pageantry of heraldry. The *armorial escutcheons*, placed over the door of a house, or in the parish church, after the death of any distinguished person, is called *batchment* in England.

*Expiry.*

*Expiration.*

*A factor, or chamberlain.*

*A steward.*

*Factors*, are properly *agents*, or *substitutes* in oppidal (if that word may be made use or), and *bailiffs*, and *stewards*, in rural matters.

*A filter.*

*A funnel.*

*A fleuk* [Saxon].

*A flounder.*

*A fret.*

*A bad omen.*

To *fret*, is to *vex*; and as nothing vexes a peevish, superstitious person, more than *bad omens*, hence it is said that the Scots came to call a *bad omen*, a *fret*. But Dr. Percy, in his Glossary, rather seems to think that *fret* comes from *fright*. *Vide* Gloss. vol. i. *Voce freits.*

*A friend,*

*A friend*, (often made use of in Scotland for)  
**A** relation.

*Relations* are not always *friends*, in the  
English sense of that word.

*A gavelock* [Saxon].

An iron crow.

*Gawntree* (corrupted from *gallentree*),

Wooden frame for holding casks.

*Gear* [Saxon].

Substance, or furniture.

*A geck, gawk, or gawky.*

A foolish fellow.

*Glasses*, (at least better)

Spectacles.

*A goose-pen.*

A goose-quill.

*Greed* (a corruption of *greediness*).

Avarice.

*A guillivine-pen.*

A black-lead pencil.

*Black-lead*, is called *killow*, or *collow*, in Cumberland; and a *guillivine-pen*, is probably a corruption of a fine *killow pencil*.

*A firth* [fretum, Latin].

An æstuary, or arm of the sea.

*Fleet*, was the old Saxon word for æstuary, and *funder*, the Cimbric one. The English, if they use *firth*, spell it *fritb*.

*Flum* [flumen, Latin],

Flattery.

*Hansel* (from *hand-sale*).

New-year's gift, or earnest.

*A goodfire*, or *gutcher*.

A grandfather.

*Sir*, is a corruption of *sire*, *sieur*, *seigneur*, *senior*; and is a remains of that respect

spect which was paid to age by the nations of antiquity. If the father was called *fire*, it was natural to suppose that the grandfather would be called *goodfire*, corrupted into *gutcher*, from his greater tenderness and indulgence. The northern Scots also say *oye*, for *grand-child*.

*A horse-couper.*

*A horse-dealer,*

*A horse-byrer.*

*A stable-keeper.*

*A horse-byrer*, is properly one that gives the hyre, and not he who gets it.

*An indweller.*

An inhabitant, or inmate.

*Indwelling*, is also Scotch. *Dwell*, and *dwellers*, are English.

*An*

*An inkborn.*

*An inkholder.*

Yet, *a silver inkborn*, is not so violent a catachresis as *a silver candlestick*; for, in the Anglo-Saxon, *born* signified a receptacle in general, of whatever materials it was composed.

*Kindling* (from *kindle*).

Coals, live coals, or firing.

I believe *kindling*, would be understood in Yorkshire.

*Knitting.*

Tape.

*The lift.*

The firmament.

*Lift*, is also used for *a great load of any thing*, or *a great quantity of liquor*.

*Lime.*

Mortar.

*Lime*

*Lime* is the material, but *mortar* is the cement when made.

*A loch* [Erse].

A lake.

*Lockbleeches.*

Leeches.

In Aberdeen, it is said that *leeches* are cried in the streets under the name of *Black Doctors, whelped in a pool,*

*The luff.*

The palm of the hand,

*The lug* [Saxon].

The ear.

*A meath* [Saxon].

A mark, a line, or channel.

*Midges* [Saxon].

Gnats.

At

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At least *gnats*, is the more usual word in England.

*A neb, or nib* [Saxon].

A nose, or bill of a bird,

*A Nonjurant.*

A Nonjurer.

*The oxtar.*

The armpit.

*A paddock* [Saxon or Belgic].

A frog, or toad.

The English use *paddock*, a corruption of *parrack*, whence *park* is derived, for a small inclosure, particularly where deer are kept.

*A pet, or peat* [petit, Fr.]

A favourite.

*Peat*, is made use of by Shakespear for *darling*; and hence *pyet* might be derived  
(if

(if it is an old word, which is much doubted), a name given by the fair of Edinburgh to a favourite beau.

*Pennies.*

Pence.

Also *balfpennies*, for *balfpence*.

*A pier* (as, *Leith pier*).

A key, quay, wharf, or harbour.

*Pith.*

Strength.

*A plagiarist*, (in England always)

A plagiary.

*Plenishing* [plenus, Latin].

Household furniture.

*A ploy.*

A little sport; or merriment ; a merry meeting.

*A poke,*

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*A poke*, (in England, generally)

A bag.

*Polity*.

Civil constitution, form of government.

Notwithstanding *Hooker's* and *Pownal's* authority, *polity* is reckoned a Scotch word.

*A pouch*.

A pocket.

*The Praes* (of a meeting).

The Chairman.

*A prospect glass*, (better)

A perspective.

*Prog* [a cant word, from procurare, Lat.]

Provisions.

*A quern* [Saxon].

A handmill.

*Rheumatics*.

Rheumatism.

*A roup*

*A roup* [Belgic].

An auction, or sale.

The *roup*, also, in Scotland, is *boarseness*;  
and *to roup*, *to sell by auction*.

*A rouping wife.*

A female auctioneer.

*A rung* (corrupted from *wrung*).

A stick, or cudgel.

*Scath*, or *Skaith* [Saxon].

Loss, or damage.

*A shetly* (from *Shetland*).

A pony.

*The shore*, (erroneously for)

The quay.

*The shore*, in England, is *the coast of the sea*, not the quay of a harbour.

*Skiny* [ $\sigma \kappa \alpha i v o s$ ].

Packthread.

*A skipper*

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*A skipper* [Saxon].

A pilot; or master of a vessel.

*A sot.*

A fool:

The Scots use *sot*, as the French do *un sot*, not for a *tippler*, but a *fool*.

*Sough* [Erse].

Whine:

*Spice.*

Pepper:

Probably *pepper* was the first *spice* known in Scotland.

*A spunk*, or *sponk*.

A match; touchwood.

Hence *spunky* is derived, made use of by the Scots, for *gay* or *lively*.

*A square.*

A ruler.

*A staw.*

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*A flaw.*

A surfeit, disrelish.

*A florm.*

A great fall of snow, or snowy weather.

*A florm*, in England, is *a tempest*, or *violent commotion of the elements*; *a lying florm*, and *a great florm on the ground*, are phrases peculiarly Scottish. *A wreath of snow*, for *a beap of snow collected by the wind*, stands in the same predicament.

*Suet* [fuet, Fr.]

Fat.

*The thrapple.*

The throat.

*A tod* [German.]

A fox.

*A toll* [telonia, Latin.]

A turnpike.

K

The

The *turnpike* is the *gate*, the *toll* is the *money paid*. In many parts of England, at the same time, *turnpikes* are called *toll-gates*.

*A trife* [Saxon].

A fair, or market.

*A tike* [Runic].

A dog, or cur.

*Vacance.*

Vacation.

*A vocable.*

A word.

*Waits* [guet, Fr.]

Watch.

Hence comes the law-term *wayt-fee*, or a fee anciently paid for keeping *watch* and *ward*.

*Wark* [Saxon].

Work.

*Wark* was the original word, and is still used in composition, as in *bulwark*.

*Waſter* (in a candle).

Thief.

*Whitsunday*.

Whitsuntide.

The other great Scotch term, *Martinmas*, the English have corrupted into *Martilmas*, or *Martlemas*. *Candlemas*, and *Lammas*, have been made use of by English writers, but are not much known at present. *Yule*, corrupted from *vigiliæ*, was of old the name which *Christmas* had in Scotland; and in Wales, *Wiliay*, which originally signified *holidays in general*, was afterwards confined to *Christmas*. *Shrove Tuesday*, is called *Faſten's e'en* by the Scots, properly, *faſting even*, the succeeding day.

being Ash Wednesday, the first of the Lent fast.

*Wite* [Saxon].

Blame.

*Yate* [Saxon], a provincial word in England.

Gate.

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### P A R T I C L E S.

*Above* (as, *wbo lives above you*).

Over.

*Albeit* (Old English).

Although.

*Allenarly* [from *alone*, or *allen*, Dutch].

Solely, only.

*Altogether*, (erroneously for)

In all.

Ex.

Ex. "*Of money and moveables I lost,  
“ altogether (in all), about fifty pounds.”  
Altogether, is completely, without exception.*

*Almost never.*

Seldom or never.

*Anent* [Saxon].

Concerning, or with regard to.

*As,* (erroneously for)

Than.

Ex. "*More as that, I would at all times  
“ rather chuse to buy as sell.”*

*Attour* [alentour, Fr.]

Beside, over and above.

*Aye* [Saxon].

Always.

*Below,* (erroneously for)

Under.

Ex. “*Below* (under) *the table*. Also, “*he wore his armour below his clothes, and bid his goods below ground.*” *Below* never signifies *beneath*, so as to be covered or hidden.

*Ben* (corrupted from *be in*).

In, or into.

*But* (a corruption of *be out*).

Without.

*But* and *ben*, is *the outer and inner room*, In low farm-houses of two rooms, the outer room is called *the but*, and the inner one *the ben*. Dr. Percy (*Reliques of Ancient Poetry*) derives *but*, from the Dutch *buyten*; and *ben*, from the Dutch *binnen*. Gloss. to Vol. III. The reader will see some curious observations upon *but*, and other conjunctions, in Horn’s Letter to Dunning, printed *anno 1778*, particularly p. 39, and 53.

*Eik*

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*Eik* [Belgic].

Alfo.

*Elſe*, (as, *I have done it elſe*, for).

Already.

*Evenly*.

Even.

*Ever a*, or *e'er a*.

Any.

Ex. "Saw you e'er a thing like it."

*Heigb*.

Hey.

The English spell it *beigb* (but without pronouncing it as the Scots do), in the interjection *beigh-bo*.

*Hout* (from *out*).

Fye.

*How soon*, (improperly for)

As soon as.

K 4

Ex.

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Ex. “*How soon (as soon as) I go home,  
I will send it.*”

*Ilk* [Saxon].

Each, every.

Ex. “*Ilk ane (every one) of you should  
have been there.*” It also signifies the same, for “*Martin of that ilk*” would denote a gentleman, whose surname is the same with the name or title of his estate.

*Just so* [as justement, Fr.]

True ; it is so.

*Langsyne.*

Long since, or long ago.

*No*, (sometimes used for)

Not.

As, *no drop*, for *not a drop*; *no possible*, for *not possible*.

*No*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 137

*No more.*

No farther, only.

Ex. “ *How often has he been married?* ”  
“ *No more than (only) once. How far does he go with you? No more (farther) than Edinburgh.* ” Mr. Hume, and other Scotch writers, are also apt to use *no more*, for *any more*. Ex. “ *Ariosto, Tasso, Galileo, no more than (any more than) Raphael, were not born in republics.* ”

*Not so soon.*

Not yet.

Wherever *not yet* can be used, *not so soon* ought to be avoided.

*Overly.*

Carelessly, superficially.

*Presently.*

Now, or at present.

Ex.

Ex. “*I do not know where he is presently.*”

*Slidderly* (corrupted from *slide*).

Slippery.

*Slippy* [a provincial word].

Slippery.

*So soon as.*

As soon as.

Ex. “*He descried Edinburgh, so soon (as soon) as he came to Leith.*” *So soon as*, says Dr. Priestley, certainly does not read so well as, *as soon as*, particularly in the middle of a sentence. This is a fault which Mr. Hume is very apt to fall into. Ex. “*Religious zeal made them fly to their standards, so soon as the trumpet was sounded by their spiritual and temporal leaders.*”

*Such.*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 139

*Such.*

*So.*

Ex. " *Such a just title, for so just a title.*"

*Through.*

*Across.*

Ex. " *To walk through (across) the room.*

*Timously* (from *timeous*).

Timely, early.

*Before* [Saxon],

Before.

*Toply,*

Finely.

*Tout* (as, *tout man*).

Pshaw.

In Shakespear it is spelt *tut*,

*Whenev'er.*

*Whenever.*

*As soon as.*

*Yon,* or *yond* [Saxon].

*That.*

*Yon* and *yond*, are two old English adverbs and adjectives, on the brink of being exploded; and perhaps *yonder*, will soon share the same fate.

I shall conclude this Glossary with the following lines of Horace, as written in the original, and as translated by Dr. Francis, who has given us the last, and best version of that excellent Poet.

“ *Mortalia facta peribunt :*

“ *Ne dum sermonum sicut bonos, et gratia vivax.*

“ *Multa renascentur, que jam cecidere, cadentque,*

“ *Quæ nunc sunt in honore vocabula, si volet usus,*

“ *Quem penes arbitrium est, et jus, et norma loquendi.”*

DE ARTE POET. vers. 68.

“ All

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 141

“ All these must perish ; and shall words presume,  
“ To hold their honours, and immortal bloom ?  
“ Many shall rise, that now forgotten lie,  
“ Others, in present credit, soon shall die ;  
“ If custom will, whose arbitrary sway,  
“ Words, and the forms of language, must obey.”

C H A P.

## C H A P. III.

*Miscellaneous words and phrases.*

WHEN the union, the constant intercourse, and the frequent intermarriages between the Scots and English are considered, it would be natural to suppose that the dialects they speak should nearly resemble each other; so far at least as regards entertainments, amusements, clothes, furniture, and other miscellaneous articles, the common subjects of conversation. But the words and phrases made use of by the two nations, differ in these, as well as in other things; and the odious distinction, as Sheridan calls it, remains equally conspicuous, at the table, in the pulpit, and at the bar: A distinction, which is far from being of advantage to such Scotchmen

Scotchmen as either reside in, or occasionally visit the capital. It is, indeed, astonishing how uncouth, and often how unintelligible, Scotch words and phrases are to an inhabitant of London, and how much it exposes such as make use of them, to the derision of those with whom they happen to have any communication or intercourse: It is therefore hoped that the following list, comprehending the most common and material differences, will not be unacceptable.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS.

Scotch. *To cover the table.*

English. To lay the cloth.

The English here agree with the French idiom, of “*mettez la nappe.*”

*To dish dinner.*

To serve, or bring up dinner.

*To*

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*To dish dinner*, may be said to the cook ;  
but *to serve, or bring up dinner*, to the butler or footman.

*To take the air off any thing*, (better)  
To take the chill off any thing.

*To make a fallad.*

To dress a fallad.

The Scotch phrase probably means, *to make a fallad fit for eating.*

*To take out a glass of wine.*

To take off a glass of wine.

*To take off*, is the proper word for *to swallow.*

*To serve the tea-things*, (better)

To hand about the tea-things.

*To fill the kettle:*

To fill the teapot.

The *kettle* is emptied, and not filled.

*To be appetised.*

To be hungry.

*Appetise* is a word peculiarly Scottish.

*To have a good stomach.*

To have a good appetite.

This may be cited as one instance, among many others, of the refinement of the English language; for *appetite*, is surely a more polite and delicate word than *stomach*, which was formerly made use of by many English authors, and is still sometimes used, though not in genteel company.

*I have had two services of broth.*

I have had two plates of broth.

The English say *a plate of broth*, as, *a glass of wine*. *A service*, for *a plate of anything*, is never made use of.

*A sad dinner.*

A hearty dinner.

L

Sad

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*Sad* is here made use of, not for a bad or dismal, but for a *hearty and substantial dinner*. In some provincial dialects, at the same time, *sad* is used for *heavy*.

*An aſſet* [assiette, Fr.]

A small dish, or plate.

*The bead and foot of a table.*

The top and bottom of a table.

*The foot of a table*, is properly what it stands on.

*Old bread.*

Stale bread.

*Old bread* would probably be musty.

*Sowens*, (an old English word for)

Oatmeal flummery.

*Brochan* [Erse].

Gruel, or water-gruel.

*Kail*

*Kail* (a corruption of *cole*).

Greens, or cabbage.

*Cole*, is a general word for *herbs*; and as many herbs were put into the Scotch kinds of broth, hence *kail*, corrupted from *cole*, came to signify *broth*.

*Fleſh*.

Meat.

In the old English dialect, *meat* signified *food in general*. John, xxi. 5. But in modern English, it denotes *fleſh meat*, or *fleſh fit to eat*. *Meat* is surely a more delicate word to use than *fleſh*, particularly at table.

*A jigot of mutton* [gigot, Fr.]

A leg of mutton.

*Veal's head and feet* [veel, Old Fr. now veau].

Calve's head and feet.

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*Veal*, is the flesh of the animal killed for the table; and the Scots use that word as the French do *veau*, copying that fashionable nation in idioms, which they are obliged to make use of, from the poverty of their language.

*A sliver of beef* (old English, for)  
A slice of beef.

*Hard fish.*

Salt fish.

The Scots judge by the touch, the English by the taste.

*Rauns*, or *roans* [Danish].

Roes.

*Prawns.*

Shrimps.

There are few, if any, *prawns* in Scotland; but the Scots give that name to what in England are called *shrimps*.

*Partans.*

*Crabs.*

*Toes of crabs and lobsters.*

Claws of crabs and lobsters.

*Gravy.*

Sauce.

The Scots do not always attend to the distinction between *sauce* and *gravy*. *Gravy* is the natural juice of the meat, *sauce* is made by art, as *anchovy*, or *lobster sauce*, &c. The English, at the same time, give the name of *gravy*, to the artificial liquid made for fowls.

*Game.*

Wild fowl.

*Game* includes hares, partridges, and the like; for the preservation of which so many laws have been vainly enacted. Teal, wild ducks, and the like, have monopolized

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the name of *wild fowl*. Some arbitrary distinctions have been established in numbering *game*, *fish*, and *wild fowl*, not always attended to by the Scots. Thus, the English always say, a couple (not pair, according to the Scottish idiom) of *fowls*, *ducks*, &c.; a brace of carp, tench, partridges, woodcocks, &c.; a pair of foals, and a leash, for three partridges, woodcocks, &c.

*A couple of hens.*

A couple of fowls,

*Fried chickens*, (properly)

*Friars chickens.*

A dish invented by that luxurious body  
of men.

*Bun*, (an old word for)

*Plumcake*, or *twelfthcake*.

*Whigs*

*Whigs.*

Chelsea buns.

*Sweetys, confections.*

Sweetmeats, confectionary.

*Carvys.*

Carroways.

Both nations write this word as they pronounce it,

*How much the pound of tea, &c.*

How much a pound of tea, &c.

*The* pound, only refers to one particular pound. The article *a*, stands for *any*, or *every*. “ We have gained five shillings *the* “piece,” for “*a piece*,” is also exceptionable.

*Biscuit.*

Confectioners cakes.

*Biscuit*, is properly bread baked hard for long voyages, from *bis*, *twice*, and *cuit*,

*baked.* But in Scotland, it is also made use of for *confectioners cakes*, in imitation of the French word *biscuit*.

*Skonns.*

Thin cakes of flour.

*Bannocks [Erse].*

Cakes.

*Spice.*

Pepper.

The Scots use *spice*, (the general word) for *pepper*, as if there was no other *spice* but *pepper*.

*Scotch collops.*

Scotched collops.

*Scotched collops* is not a dish invented by the Scots, or peculiar to Scotland, but derived from the old English verb, *to scotch*, or *cut*. *A bagges*, is another dish not, in former

former times, belonging exclusively to Scotland, but derived from the English verb, *to baggle*, i. e. *to chop*, or *cut*; from the meat being chopt small, of which the dish is made.

*Barm*, (an old English word, for)  
Yeast, or yeast.

In the southern parts of England, *yeast* is called *rising*.

*Strong ale*, (usually in England called)  
Ale.

*Whisky*.

Usquebaugh, aquavitæ.

*Whisky* is a corruption of *usque* (*water*), the two first syllables of *usquebaugh*.

*Sweet butter.*

*Fresh butter,*

The

The Scots also say *powdered*, for *salt butter*; a *crumb of butter*, for a little bit of butter; a *kebbuck* (an Erse word), for a *cheese*; and *crudy butter*, for *curds and butter*. *Crudy butter* is a kind of cheese, only made by the Scots, whose curds being generally of a poorer quality than the English, they mix it with butter to enrich it.

*Ream*, (still used in Lancashire, as well as in some parts of Scotland, for)  
*Cream*.

---

*The following is a state of the difference between the Scotch and English liquid measures.*

*A Scotch mutchkin*, makes  
An English pint.

*A chopin.*

*A quart.*

*A pint.*

*A pint.*

Two quarts.

*A quart.*

A gallon.

*Chopin*, is derived from the French *chopine*. It is a measure now confined to Scotland, though formerly known in England. *Stoop*, stands in the same predicament.

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The following Tables will explain the difference between the Scotch and English measures regarding grain and land.

T A B L E

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T A B L E I.  
For reducing the English Bushels, or Quarters, to  
Scotch Measure, according to the Edinburgh  
Standards.

English Measure.	Scotch Barley or Oats.				Scotch Wheat or Pease.				100 parts.
	Bushel	Pecks.	100 parts.	Bolls.	Firlots.	Pecks.	Bolls.		
1	0	0	2	69	0	3	92		
2	0	1	1	38	0	1	85		
3	0	2	0	07	0	2	78		
4	0	2	2	76	0	3	70		
5	0	3	1	46	1	0	63		
6	1	0	0	15	1	1	56		
7	1	0	2	84	1	2	49		
Quart.	1	1	1	53	1	3	41		
2	2	2	3	07	3	3	83		
3	4	0	0	61	5	3	25		
4	5	1	2	14	7	3	67		
5	6	2	3	68	9	3	09		
6	8	0	1	22	11	3	51		
7	9	1	2	76	13	2	3	93	
8	10	3	0	29	15	2	3	35	
9	12	0	1	83	17	2	2	77	
10	13	1	3	37	19	2	2	19	
20	26	3	2	74	39	1	0	38	
30	40	1	2	11	58	3	2	57	
40	53	3	1	49	78	2	0	76	
50	67	1	0	86	98	0	2	95	
60	80	3	0	23	117	3	1	14	
70	94	0	3	60	137	1	3	33	
80	107	2	2	98	157	0	1	52	
90	121	0	2	35	176	2	3	71	
100	134	2	1	72	196	1	1	90	

Note, 4 Bushels make 1 Comb.

8 Bushels, or 2 Combs, 1 Quarter.

4 Quarters, 1 Chalder, English measure.

And ♦ Lippies make 1 Peck.

4 Pecks, 1 Firlot.

4 Firlots, 1 Boll.

16 Bolls, 1 Chalder, Scots Measure.

T A B L E II.  
For reducing the Price of the English Quarter to the  
Scotch Boll.

Price of the Quarter.	Barley or Oats per Boll.	Wheat or Pease per Boll.
l. s. d.	l. s. d. f.	l. s. d. f.
0 12 0	0 8 11 0	0 6 1 1
0 12 6	0 9 3 2	0 6 4 2
0 13 0	0 9 8 0	0 6 7 2
0 13 6	0 10 0 1	0 6 10 2
0 14 0	0 10 4 3	0 7 1 2
0 14 6	0 10 9 1	0 7 4 3
0 15 0	0 11 1 3	0 7 7 3
0 15 6	0 11 6 1	0 7 10 3
0 16 0	0 11 10 3	0 8 1 3
0 16 6	0 12 3 0	0 8 4 3
0 17 0	0 12 7 2	0 8 8 0
0 17 6	0 13 0 0	0 8 11 0
0 18 0	0 13 4 2	0 9 2 0
0 18 6	0 13 9 0	0 9 5 0
0 19 0	0 14 1 2	0 9 8 0
0 19 6	0 14 5 3	0 9 11 1
1 0 0	0 14 10 1	0 10 2 1
1 0 6	0 15 2 3	0 10 5 1
1 1 0	0 15 7 1	0 10 8 1
1 1 6	0 15 11 3	0 10 11 2
1 2 0	0 16 4 1	0 11 2 2
1 2 6	0 16 8 2	0 11 5 2
1 3 0	0 17 1 0	0 11 8 2
1 3 6	0 17 5 2	0 11 11 3
1 4 0	0 17 10 0	0 12 2 3
1 4 6	0 18 2 2	0 12 5 3
1 5 0	0 18 6 3	0 12 8 3
1 5 6	0 18 11 2	0 12 11 3
1 6 0	0 19 3 3	0 13 3 0
1 6 6	0 19 8 2	0 13 6 0
1 7 0	1 00 1 0	0 13 9 0

In England, all Grain is bought and sold by the Quarter : In Scotland by the Boll. The Scotch Boll varies in its Measure according to the different Grains ; the Boll of Barley and Oats being considered larger than the Boll of Wheat or Pease.

TABLE III.

TABLES of the constitutional Parts of an Acre, both in Scotch and English Measure,

Scotch Measure.			English Measure.		
Rods.	Falls.	Ells.	Fest.	Rods.	Poles.
One Acre,	4	160	5760	54760	One Acre,
One Rood,	1	40	1440	13690	One Rood,
One Fall,	0	1	36	342.25	One Pole,
One Ell,	0	0	1	9.5694	One Yard,

Land is commonly measured in England by a Chain of 22 Yards, and in Scotland by a Chain of 24 Scotch Ells; but both Chains are divided into 100 Links.

GAMES and AMUSEMENTS.

Scotch. *A Trump* [trompe, Fr.]

English. A Jew-harp.

*A fiddle.*

A violin.

*Fiddler*, is only applied, in England, to the lowest of the musical tribe ; and *fiddle*, to the instruments they play upon.

*Dams* [le jeu des dames, Fr.]

Draughts.

*A purn* (for angling).

A wheel.

*To breed a dog*, (better)

To break a dog.

*To ride a horseback*, (better)

To ride on horseback.

The distinction is, *to ride a horse*, but  
*to ride on horseback.*

*Spaud, maul.*

*Spadille, manille.*

The Scots and English often use different words and phrases at the card-table; as, *to triumph* (corrupted from *triumph*), for *to trump a card*. *First in hand*, for *eldest hand*. *To play with liberty*, for *to play with leave*. *Six cards*, for *six tricks*, &c. &c.

*Blind Harry.*

*Blindman's buff.*

*Ball.*

*Fives.*

*A spring.*

*A tune on any musical instrument.*

CLOTHES, DRESS, &c.

*To set any thing.*

To become any thing well.

*Ill does it set you,* also, for *ill does it become you to do such a thing.*

*To be trig* (corrupted from *tricked up*).

To be neat.

*To clean shoes.*

To wipe, or black shoes.

*A barber,* (sometimes for)

A hairdresser.

*A swatch* (from *swath*).

A pattern, or piece for a sample.

*A wrought waistcoat, gown, &c.*

A worked waistcoat, &c.

*A sewed gown, &c.*

A worked gown, &c.

The distinction is, *to sew with a needle,*  
but *to work in the tambour.*

*A handsome coat.*

A handsome suit of clothes.

*The neck, or neckpiece of a coat.*

The cape, or collar of a coat..

*Riding clothes.*

Riding habit.

*A big-coat.*

A great-coat, or surtout..

*A cloth-brush.*

A clothes-brush.

*A cloth-brush,* would properly be one  
made of *cloth.*

*A towel.*

A napkin.

Towels are used in a chamber; napkins,  
as tea-napkins, at table.

*A nap-*

*A napkin.*

**A handkerchief.**

*Napkin*, for *bandkerchief*, is used by Shakespeare (*Othello*, Act III. Scene 7), and is still current in the North of England, particularly about Sheffield. *Vide Warner's Letter to Garrick*, p. 35.

*A servite* [serviette, Fr.]

**A table napkin.**

*A service of linen* [French].

**A complete set of linen.**

*Napery* [naperia, Italian].

**Table linen.**

*Mittens* [mitaines, Fr.]

**Woollen gloves.**

*Mittens*, in England, at present, are understood to be *gloves without fingers*.

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*Stripped stockings.*

Ribbed stockings.

*Stripped stockings* would properly be variegated with lines of different colours.

*Tartan* [perhaps from tarote, Fr.]

Highland plaid.

*A philibeg* [Erse].

A short, or little petticoat.

*A durk* [Erse].

A dagger, or poniard.

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T   O   W   N   S.

*A wind.*

A lane.

Edinburgh and Stirling, two of the principal towns in Scotland, are situated on hills, with one wide street, and many narrow

row lanes, leading from thence down the sides of the hills; which lanes, from their being generally winding, and not straight, are called *winds*.

*A cloſſ.*

A court, square, or alley.

Ex. *The Parliament Cloſſ at Edinburgh*, which is properly a square, and is now begun to be called so. The name of *cloſſ*, is improperly given to any place which is not almost altogether shut up, which Edinburgh alleys seldom are.

*Up ſtreets.*

Up a street, or the street.

*The bead or foot of a ſtreet.*

The top or bottom of a street.

*The right or left ſide of a ſtreet.*

The right or left-hand side of a street.

*A street* has no *right or left side of its own*, but as it refers to the *right or left-hand* of any particular person.

*Number first, second, third, fourth, &c. of a street.*

Number one, two, three, four, &c. of a street.

In London the houses are in general numbered; and it is not *number first*, but *number one*, that a person should inquire after.

*A college.*

*An university.*

Ex. *Oxford college*, for *the University of Oxford*. *An University* consists of many colleges.

*The other side of the street.*

*The other side of the way.*

*The*

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 167

The *street*, is only that part of the way which is allotted for carriages. The term *way*, includes also the pavements for foot-passengers on both sides of the street.

*Plain-stones.*

Pavement.

Ex. *A plain-stone closs, for a paved alley.*

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## H O U S E S.

*To set a bouse.*

To let a house.

The Scots also say, *to set a farm, garden, &c.*

*To lodge in a bouse.*

To dwell, or live in a house.

*To stay in a bouse.*

To reside in a house.

*To red up a room.*

*To put a room in order.*

*Red* is probably derived either from *redere*, Latin, *to restore*, from its being restored to its former order; or from the verb *to rid*, because it must be rid or freed from unnecessary incumbrances.

*A well-aired house.*

*A house in an airy situation.*

*A well-aired house*, is properly one free from damps within, and not a house in a high and airy situation, and consequently enjoying good air without, which is the meaning of the Scottish idiom.

*A house within itself*, (better)

*A house by itself.*

*A slated house.*

*A flated house.*

The

The Scots spell and pronounce *slate*, *sclate*, nearer the original French word *esclate*, *a tile*, than the English edition of it.

*A turnpike-stair* [perhaps from tourniquet, French].

A well, or winding staircafe.

*Turnpike-stairs*, says Mr. Arnot, are built in a spiral form; *scale-stairs*, have straight flights of steps. History of Edinburgh, p. 246.

*A transē* [transitus, Latin].

A passage from a staircafe.

*Fire-rooms.*

Rooms with a fire-place.

*A bunker.*

A window-seat.

*A chimney-piece*, (more elegantly)

A mantle-piece.

*The*

*The jaum of a door* [jambe, Fr.]  
The side-post.

*The roof of a room.*  
The cieling.

*Boxing.*  
Wainscotting.

*A change-house.*  
An ale-house.

*A public-house.*  
An inn, a tavern, or hotel.

In England, *public-houses* are kept by the inferior, and not better, kind of publicans.

*A smithy,* (an old English word for)  
A smith's house.

*A ducat* (corrupted from dovecot).  
A pigeon-house.

*A reeky*

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 171

*A reeky house.*

A smoky house.

*Reek* is an old English word for *smoke*.

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F U R N I T U R E, &c.

*A kitchen.*

A tea-urn, or vase.

It is improper to give one word (*kitchen*) two meanings, when there are other words that express one of the senses equally well, and are confined to that alone.

*A tray.*

A waiter, or tea-board.

*Trays* are made of common wood, and are calculated to carry vi<sup>c</sup>tuals, &c. *Waiters* and *tea-boards* are either made of ja-paned ware, or of the finest kinds of wood, or sometimes of silver.

*The*

*The plate.*

*The dish.*

*Plates* are only for eating out of.

*A deep plate.*

A soup-plate.

*A flap-bafon.*

*A flop-bafon.*

*A sugar-bowl.*

*A sugar-dish.*

*A bowl.*

A bafon, or basin.

*Bowls* never hold less than a Scotch mutchkin, or English pint. *Bafons* are smaller bowls.

*A brander* [Runic].

A gridiron, or grateiron.

The Scots also say *to brander*, for *to broil meat.*

*A besom.*

*A besom* [Saxon].

A small brush.

*Besom* may be found in *Isaiah*, xiv. 22.  
and in *Bacon*.

*A cbimney.*

A stove, or grate.

The *cbimney*, is properly the whole fire-place. The *stove* or *grate*, that part of it in which the fire is contained.

*A grate.*

A stove.

Nothing are called *grates* in England but fixed ones, such as the laundry and kitchen *grates*.

~~A~~ *shake-down.*

Bed-clothes spread upon the floor.

*A bowſter* (corrupted from)  
Bolster.

*A cod*

*A mod* [Saxon].

A pillow.

*Pincod* is also sometimes used for *pin-cushion*.

*A gully*.

A large household knife.

*A short light*.

A flat candlestick.

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## AGRICULTURE, and the COUNTRY.

*A laird*.

A squire, or lord of a manor.

*Laird* and *lord* were originally the same. In the Border Laws, published by the Bishop of Carlisle, the Earl of Northumberland and the Lord of Galloway are both called *lairds*. *Vide* Ruddiman's

Glossary, to Bishop Douglas's Virgil, *vocē lārd*. Both words are properly derived from the Saxon; but Misson, in his Travels, Vol. ii. p. 375. pretends that they came from the Hetruscan language, in which *lars*, or *lartes*, signified a *lord* or *prince*. Hence he says the *Lartes Talumnus*, mentioned by Livy, ought to be translated *Lord Talumnus*. A proof, among many others, to what length etymologists will go.

But the real origin of *lord*, is given us by that valuable English antiquarian Richard Verstegan; who informs us, that *lord* was originally written *laford*; and as *laf*, from whence *loaf* is derived, signified *bread*, so *laford*, was properly an *afforder of bread*, or a *bread-giver*. An honourable appellation in those days of unbounded hospitality.

*Lady,*

*Lady*, also, was originally written *leafdian*, afterwards *lafdian*, *lafdy*, and ultimately *lady*, which, in the Saxon, signified *bread-server*, that is, *the person who distributed, or portioned out the food among the guests*. And hence, says Verstegan, arose the ancient custom of the *lady* of the house carving the meat, and serving the guests at table, which, in other countries, is altogether strange and unusual.

Our antiquarian adds a compliment to the *lafords* and *leafdians* of his time, which it is hoped their posterity will endeavour, like them, to merit. “The nobility of this “island (he says) are really intitled to the “Saxon names by which they are distinguis-“ed, having always shown themselves supe-“rior to those on the continent, in hospitality “to strangers, and liberality to the poor.”

It ought also to be observed, that it was formerly a custom in Scotland to call the

wife of a *laird* a *lady*, by the name of his estate; and the eldest son of a peer, where there was no second title in the family, by the name of, *the master of such a thing*. But both those customs are now exploded.

*An heritor*, (abbreviated from inheritor)

A proprietor.

*A tackisman.*

A leaseholder, tenant, or farmer.

The Scots pronounce the word *take*, *tak'*, hence they call a farm *a tack*, and a great farmer, *a tackisman*.

*A cotter*, or *sub-tenant*.

A cottager.

*Cottier* may be found in old English Dictionaries, but *cottager* at present is only made use of.

*A grieve* [Belgic].

An overseer, or bailiff.

N

*Grieve*

*Grieve* is derived from *grave*, which, in the Belgic, signifies *praefectus*; hence comes the German words *landgrave*, and *margrave*.

*A carter*, (more commonly)

*A carman.*

Some make this distinction, *carters* in the country, but *carmen* in London.

*A dey.*

*A dairy-maid.*

*Dey*, is an old English word for *milk* (*vide* Johnson's Dictionary, *voce dairy*), and *a dey*, perhaps, might signify *a dairy-maid*; but the only *deys* at present heard of in England, are those of Tunis and Algiers.

*A berd.*

*A shepherd, a cowherd.*

In

In Scotland, and anciently in England, *a herd* was *a keeper of cattle*; but now it is made use of by the English, only for *the flock he keeps*. Nay, Allan Ramsay calls the hero of his Pastoral, *the Gentle* (that is, not the meek, but the high-born) *Shepherd*, thinking *herd*, too vulgar an expression.

*A shearer of corn.*

A reaper.

*To shear corn*, is also improperly made use of in the north of England, as well as in Scotland, for *to reap corn*. *Shearing*, can only be done with shears, or scissars, whereas corn is cut down, or *reaped*, by the hook, the sickle, or the scythe.

*A book*, (better)

A sickle, or reaping-hook.

*To kirn butter.*

To churn butter.

*Ky*, or *kine* [Belgic].

Cows.

From *ky*, the Scots have also formed *quey*,  
and *queyock*.

*A stot*, or *float* [Saxon].

A young bullock.

*A stirk* (in Lancashire, *sturk*).

A steer, or heifer.

*A gaut* (as, *a mill gaut*).

A hog, a sow.

*A bog*.

A young sheep.

Even in Yorkshire, and Northamptonshire, *a sheep* of a year old is called *a bog*.

*A grice* (an old English word for)

A little pig.

*A croft* [Saxon].

A small farm.

In

In England, *a croft* only means *a small pasture*, near a cottage.

*A labouring.*

A farm.

*To labour well*, they also use in Scotland, for *to farm well*.

*A maling.*

A little farm, or landed property.

*Maling* comes from *mail*, in consequence of rents being originally paid in *mails* or *bags*; *mails* and *duties*, also, a common phrase in Scotland for *rents*, is derived, as is generally imagined, from *maille*, *a bag*, and *dú*, the participle of *devoir*. Bishop Fleetwood, at the same time, affirms (Pref. to Chron. Prec.), that *mails* was an old English word for *halfpence*. It appears, from the same learned writer (p. 50, 51.), that the Scotch mode of dividing a farm into so many

*pennylands, halfpennylands, and farthing-lands,* was formerly known in England; nor was a *penny* so despicable a rent for a little space of ground, at a time when one *penny*, as the bishop informs us, would purchase a ram, and *twelve pence* an ox, p. 43.

*A mains.*

Lands near a mansion-house.

*Mains,* is either a contraction of *domains*, or derived from *maneo*, in the same manner as *manse* and *manor*.

*A stocking.*

A stock for a farm.

*Good wintering.*

Good Winter's provision.

*Provision for cattle,* in the Winter season, being seldom in great plenty or abundance in Scotland, whilst the Scots were indifferent farmers, it occasioned the formation

tion of a particular word (*wintering*) to express its scarcity or abundance.

*Fodder is plenty.*

Fodder is plentiful, or abundant.

There is no such adjective as *plenty*.

*Fogage* [fogagium, Low Latin].

Aftermath, or aftergras.

*Fogage*, is properly the græs that has grown after the hay has been made. In some counties in England it is called *erſb*, or *eddiſb*; and in Sussex *gratton*. The English, at the same time, say *a fog*, for *a græſ lamb*.

*A ſtock of corn* (old English, for)

A ſhock of corn.

*Farm.*

Rent in grain.

*Feorme*, the Saxon primitive word, whence *farm* is derived, signified *food*, or *provi-*

*son.* Black. Com. Vol. ii. p. 318. And as rents in Scotland were originally paid in *kind*, and from arable grounds, consequently in *grain*; hence rent paid in *grain*, came to be called *farm*; and in those primitive days of hospitality, were all made use of as *feorme*, or *provisions for the sustenance of the proprietor's family*.

*A graffum.*

*A fine.*

Rents, in Scotland, were at first paid for the arable lands only; but when *grass* became more valuable in that country, the landlord would naturally insist upon some consideration for the ground in *grass*. The Scotch farmers were fonder of fines, which they imagined was only a temporary burthen, than a perpetual increase of rent, and they were often more convenient for the master.

master. Fines were therefore paid for the *grass grounds*, and hence came to be called *graffums*.

*Bear*, or *big*.

Barley of inferior quality.

*Vitual*.

Grain, and sometimes oatmeal.

*Corn*.

Oats.

The Scots also say, “the wind and “rain have lodged (laid flat) my *corns*.” Whereas *corns* are only the hard and painful excrescences on the toes. “*Corn the horse*,” also, for *give the horse a feed of oats, or corn*, is not unusual.

*Draff* [Belgic].

Grains of malt.

*Lint*

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*Lint* [linteum, Latin], generally, in England, called

Flax.

*Briar* [Saxon].

Young shoots of corn.

*A bee's scape* [Danish].

A bee-hive.

*Scape*, or *scaupe*, is used for *a cluster*, *quantity*, or *bed* of any thing; as *a scaupe*, for *a bed of oysters, muscles, &c. &c.* *Sceppe*, also, according to Bishop Fleetwood, Chron. Prec. p. 77. was an old English word for *bysbel*.

*A byre* [Erse].

A cow-house.

*Beſtial* (from *beast*).

Cattle.

*Beſtial* is used in England as an adjective, but not as a substantive.

*A bow*

*A bow* [Erse].

A dairy, or herd of cattle.

*A bow* is also made use of for *a fold*, contracted from *bought*, and perhaps derived from the French *boucher*, to *shut up*, or *inclose*.

*A botbie* (from *booth*).

A little cottage.

*A girnel.*

A granary.

*A corf-houſe* (from *coffer*).

A store-houſe.

*A barn-yard*, (better)

A farm-yard.

*A ſtone dike*, (in England, always)

A ſtone wall.

*Dike*, according to Skinner, comes from *dig*, and consequently *dikes*, like those of

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Holland, are made of earth, and never of stone. Properly we may *dig a dike*, but we must *build a wall*.

*A flap in a dike.*

*A gap in a wall.*

*A pailing* [palus, Latin], used erroneously for

*A palisade, or palisado.*

*Pailing* is still used in England, for any common wooden fence.

*Leys* [Saxon].

*Untilled ground;*

Or, *ground formerly tilled*, now in pasture.

*A fur, or fure* [Saxon].

*A furrow.*

Ex. *A light fur*, for *a shallow furrow*.

*A yoking.*

A day's ploughing.

*Faugb* [fauve, Fr.]

Fallow.

*A rig* [Saxon].

A ridge.

*Cbingle*, (a word used in Sussex also, for)

Gravel.

*Feal* (from *fewel*).

Turf.

*Muck* [Belgic].

Dung, or manure.

*Muck* is a word now growing out of use,  
even in the remotest parts of England.

*A midding* [Saxon].

A dunghill.

*Midding*, says Bishop Gibson (Notes on  
the Pol. Mid.), is derived from *myke*, Saxon,  
for *dung*, and *ding*, which signified a heap.

*Gooding*

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*Gooding for the land.*

Manure.

*A kail-blade.*

*A cabbage-leaf.*

*Kail* is derived from *cole*, a general name for all sorts of *cabbage*; and *blade*, from the French *bled*, or *blé*.

*A docking.*

*A dock.*

*Whins* (from the Welsh).

*Furze.*

*Furze*, at least, is more common in England.

*A Saugh* [*salix*, Latin].

*A willow.*

*A birk* [Saxon].

*A birch.*

From.

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 191

From *Birk*, Berkshire is said to have taken its name.

*Berry*, (more commonly)

Currant.

Also *blackberries*, for *black currants*. *Blackberries*, in England, are a species of bramble.

*Gins*, or *quens*.

Blackaroons, Blackcherries.

A notion prevails in the North, that the *blackberry* was originally brought from Guines in France, and hence its name in Scotland originates.

*Scrogs* [Saxon].

Shrubs, or thorns.

*Policy*.

Grounds, or pleasure-grounds.

This

This sense of the word *policy*, is probably taken from the French verb *policer*, to order; as *pleasure-grounds* are kept in better order than other fields.

*A fbead.*

A field.

*A park.*

An inclosure.

*A park*, in England, is properly a large piece of ground inclosed for deer; whereas, in Scotland, it is applied to every species of inclosure.

*A pretty lying field.*

A field with a beautiful slope or declivity.

*A crag, or craig [Saxon].*

A rock.

Mr. Ray supposes *craig* to be a British word.

*A brae*

*A brae* [Erse].

A bank.

Ex. *A stony brae*, for a steep bank. *Brae* is also used in a more extensive sense, signifying a large extent of hilly country, as *the braes of Mar*, and *the braes of Athol*.

*The shoulder of a hill*.

The ridge of a hill.

*A glen*, or *glyn* [Erse].

A dale, or narrow valley.

*A strath* [Erse].

A broad valley.

*A baugh* [Saxon].

A small meadow in a valley.

*A know*, or *knoll*, (old English, for)

A little hill.

*A Slak* [Saxon].

A narrow pass between two hills.

signified water springing out of the earth ;  
and hence, in Brabant, a well is called a  
*bourn-pit.*

*A water.*

*A river.*

The English never say *the water of Thames*, as the Scots do, *the water of Tweed*, or *the water of Tay*.

*A ſpeat* (from the old English verb *ſpet*).

*A flood.*

*A great superabundance of water.*

*A ſtank* [ſtagnum, Latin].

*A pond, or pool.*

*A dub* [Saxon].

*A pool of dirty water.*

*A view.*

*A prospect.*

*Prospect*

*Prospect* is an indefinite term, and relates to every thing that can be seen from any particular place. *View*, properly refers only to one particular object. Ex. *There is a delightful prospect from Highgate-Hill of the country about London, and a distinct view from it, of St. Paul's.*

*A glede* [Saxon].

*A kite.*

*Glede* may be found in Deut. xiv. 13.

*A corby* [gorbeau, Fr.]

*A raven.*

*A whaap.*

*A curlew.*

*A gawk* [Saxon].

*A cuckow.*

*A mavis* [mavis, Fr.]

*A thrush.*

OBSERVATIONS ON  
*A laverick, (abbreviated by the English into)*  
**Lark.**

---

*I shall conclude this chapter with a list of  
TRADES and OCCUPATIONS, which  
have different names in the Scotch and  
English dialects.*

*A wright.*

*A carpenter.*

*Wright*, at present, is a general name for timber workmen ; hence *skipwright*, *wheelwright*, &c. ; but the Scots, by *wrights*, mean *carpenters* ; which, Mr. Brokesby affirms, is still the case in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

But it may be remarked, that *wright* originally signified *labouring man*, and was not confined to artificers in wood,  
which

which is supposed to be the case at present. And that *smith*, stood the Saxons in the same stead, as *faber* did the Romans; for as they had their *faber lignarius*, and *faber ferrarius*, so the Saxons had their *wood-smith* (now called *wright*, or *carpenter*), their *iron-smith*, and their *arrow-smith* \*, or *maker of arrows*. Indeed, as timber-workmen are obliged to smite with their hammers, as well as artificers in iron, the name *smith*, which comes from *smite*, might, with the same propriety, be applied to the former, as to the latter.

Hence also, a specious and plausible reason may be assigned for the great preva-

\* *Arrow-smith* is the name of a family in the neighbourhood of Worcester, who certainly took their name from a profession of the first importance, when the archers or bowmen of England were the conquerors of France, and the terror of Europe.

lence of *smith* over every other surname. For *taylor*, *turner*, *miller*, &c. were names by which only one particular handicraft trade was distinguished; whereas *smith*, was a word by which two very common occupations were jointly denominated.

*A baxter*, (an old English word for)  
Baker.

*A webster*, (formerly used in England for)  
Weaver.

*A dyster*.

A dier.

But *maltster*, &c. is good English.

*A browster* (quasi *brewster*).

A brewer.

*A brouft*, is also made use of, for a  
brewing.

*A soutar*

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*A soutar* [sutor, Latin].

A shoemaker.

*A cordiner* [cordonnier, Fr.]

A cordwainer, or shoemaker.

*A whiteiron smith.*

A tinman.

The Scots also say *whiteiron*, for *tin*. In Sussex, *tinmen* are called *whitesmiths*.

*A beckler* [Belgic].

A flaxdresser.

At least *flaxdresser* is preferable.

A *tradesman*, it may be observed, in Scotland, implies one who works with his hands at any handicraft trade; whereas in England, it means a *shopkeeper*, whether he works himself or not.

C H A P.

## C H A P. IV.

*Legal, and clerical words and phrases.*

THE Scotch and English systems of jurisprudence, at one period, were nearly the same. Our most ancient law-book, the *Regiam Majestatem*, and Glanville's Treatise on the Laws of England, may be compared to different editions of the same work. It is well known with what zeal many Scotch antiquarians have contended for the originality of the *Regiam Majestatem*, and how vehemently the English have asserted, that it was only a servile imitation of their countryman's performance \*. It is dangerous to engage in a contest,

\* As to the controversy regarding the authenticity of the *Regiam Majestatem*, the reader may consult M'Dougal

a contest, into which two nations have entered with as much eagerness, as if the honour of their respective countries depended upon that single point. I shall waive that musty controversy; and, instead of making fruitless inquiries into the ancient connexion between the laws of England and Scotland, shall endeavour to prove, in as few words as possible, the wisdom and policy of incorporating our laws together, and of digesting them into one complete and regular system.

Lord Bacon, with whose admirable works the lawyer, the divine, the statesman, the historian, and the philosopher, ought to be

M'Doual of Bankton's Institutes, Vol. i. Book i. Tit. i. in defence of that work. And, on the other hand, *Craig de Feudis*, Lib. i. 8. § ii. Lord Lyttelton's History of Henry the Second, Vol. iii. p. 209. and Lord Hailes's First Essay on several Subjects relating to British Antiquities.

equally

equally conversant, has not omitted this subject, among his political disquisitions; and the reasons he assigns for composing a *British Code*, are not less applicable to the present, than they were to his own times. They are contained in his Speech concerning the Union of Laws, and in his excellent Observations concerning the Union between England and Scotland.

In the first place, it is certain, that the forming of such a code would be attended with the happy consequence of having the laws of both nations revised and digested; a work, which the number and verbosity of our British Statutes renders daily more necessary. The Scotch law-books are of an immense magnitude, an *onus multorum camelorum*, but nothing in comparison of the number which the Barristers of England must peruse; an *abridgment* of whose system

## THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 205

System of jurisprudence has been seriously offered to the public in no less than *four and twenty volumes folio*. Such a heaping up of laws, without observing much order or arrangement, may increase the business of the bar from the confusion and uncertainty it occasions; but every one must perceive, that it is equally disgraceful to the state, and ruinous to the people.

Since the principles of the laws of England and Scotland were originally the same, the reducing them into one complete and regular system cannot be a work of unsurmountable labour and difficulty: Nor would such an attempt meet with those obstructions which might be expected, had there never had been any connexion or resemblance between the two codes. And if once our laws were again united, it is im-

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it will be done by the best men, and in  
the best time.

probable, whilst our King and Parliament remained the same, that any material difference would be permitted. We should then lie under the same yoke, as Bacon observes; our union and connexion with each other would be strengthened and confirmed, and in succeeding ages, any discord or separation between the two nations would probably be prevented.

Indeed, when it is considered, that an abridgment of the laws of England was recommended to Parliament almost two centuries ago, and that, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was said, so voluminous were the Statutes, that they could neither be sufficiently understood by the lawyers, nor properly observed and practised by the people \*, it is astonishing to find that the

\* Gurdon's Hist. of Parl. Vol. i. p. 396.

English

English should still groan under a still more accumulated burden \*.

If that happy union of laws should ever take place, which perhaps may be gradually carried into execution, on the plan which Mr. Justice Barrington has suggested †, the following differences between the Scotch and English legal dialects (partly arising from greater remains of Normanic jurisprudence in Scotland, than in England, but principally occasioned by our connexion with France, and the introduction of the civil law into Scotland), will require to be particularly attended to.

\* There are no less than *four thousand different offences* punishable at this time by the laws of England. *Vide Addington's Abridgment of the Penal Statutes.*

† *Vide Barrington's Observ. on the Ancient Statutes.*  
*Appendix, p. 499.*

LEGAL WORDS *and* PHRASES.

Scotch. *To adduce in proof of any thing.*

English. To produce in proof of any thing,

*To appretiate* [apprecier, Fr.]

*To appraise.*

*To affoilzie* [absolvere, Latin].

*To acquit.*

*To bruke* [Saxon].

*To enjoy, or possess.*

*To compete* [competer, Fr.]

*To enter into competition.*

*To condescend upon* [condescendre, Fr.]

*To specify, or enumerate.*

*To depone.*

*To swear, to depose, or to give evidence.*

Yet the English say *deponent*, and not  
*depofent.*

To

*To despolzie, and to spulzie.*

**To rob, spoil, and plunder.**

The Scotch words are derived from the French *spolier*, and *depouiller*.

*To dispone.*

**To dispose, devise, convey, or transfer.**

*To reply, duply, triply, quadruply, quintuply, &c.*

To answer, reply, rejoin, rebut, sur-rebut, &c.; hence the nouns rejoinder, rebutter, sur-rebutter, &c.

The Scots imitate the French idiom, *repliquer, dupliquier, tripler, quadrupler, &c.*

*To excamb [excambere, Law Latin].*

**To exchange.**

In the words derived from the Latin, there is some resemblance between the Oscan dialect and the English. Both of them delight in cutting off the ends of the words

P	they
---	------

they have adopted, as if improvement consisted in mutilation. A thousand instances occur in the English language; and with regard to the Oscan, it contracted *cælum* into *cæl*, *solidum* into *sollum*, *famulus* into *famul*, and *facultas*, *difficultas*, *capitalis*, into *facul*, *difficul*, and *capital*.

*To extinguish a debt.*

To pay off a debt by degrees.

*To hold blench.*

To hold lands for the payment of a small quitrent.

*To homologate* [homologuer, Fr.]

To ratify, or approve.

*To implement an agreement* [implementum, Latin].

To fulfil an agreement.

*To incarcerate* [incarcero, Latin].

To imprison.

Dr.

Dr. Young, in his Night Thoughts, uses  
*incarcerate* in a figurative sense.

*To infest* [infeoder, Fr.]

To infeoff.

From Bobbin's Glossary of the Lancashire dialect, it would appear that *to feft*, is made use of in that county, for *to give an estate for life, &c.*

*To instruct any thing by evidence* [instruire, Fr.]

To prove any thing by evidence.

*To intromit with a man's goods.*

To take the possession, or management, of a man's goods.

To give an account of one's *intromissions*, is also a common Scottish phrase.

*To poind* [Saxon].

To pound.

In some places (nor is Scotland an exception), this word is corrupted into *puss*.

*To propone a defence.*

To state, or move a defence.

*To rebut.*

To repulse, or discourage.

*To resile from an agreement* [resilio, Latin].

To depart from an agreement.

*To summons a person.*

To summon a person.

*Summons* is the noun, and *summon* the verb.

*To waken a plea.*

To renew, or revive a suit.

*Bygone.*

Past.

Thought

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 213

Though *bygone* may be found in Shakespeare, yet it is now reckoned a word peculiarly Scottish.

*Defunct* (old English, for)

Deceased.

*Lesum* (corrupted from *lawsum*),

Lawful.

*Notour* [notoire, Fr.]

Notorious.

*Proven*, and its compounds; as *improven*, &c,

Proved, &c.

*Pled* (improperly made use of, for)

Pleaded.

*Onerous* [onereux, Fr.]

Weighty, sufficient, for a valuable consideration.

Ex. *He sold his estate for an onerous raufe*,  
that is for money; and implies a sufficient

price, in opposition to *gratuitous*, which means for nothing, or at least voluntarily.

*Relevant* [relever, Fr.]

Sufficient, valid, lawful.

*Timous.*

Timely.

*Timous* is an expression used by Bacon, now exploded in England.

*Udal* [corrupted from *allodium*, Feudal Latin].

Allodial.

As no lands in England are held in absolute independence, without acknowledging any Lord Paramount, even *allodial* is not often made use of,

*Wrongous.*

Unlawful, injurious.

*An act of contravention* [contravention, Fr.]

A trespass.

The

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 215

The act of breaking through any restraint imposed by deed, by covenant, or by a court of justice.

*An adjudication* [adjudication, Fr.]

A legal conveyance.

It is a *legal seizure*, or *judicial conveyance* of the debtor's estate, for the creditor's security and payment, corresponding to the English writ of *Elegit*.

*An advocate* [advocatus, Latin].

A counsellor, or barrister.

The Lord Advocate of Scotland, is a term equivalent to the Attorney General of England: And *counsellors*, in Scotland, are said not to have been called to the bar, but to have passed *advocate*; that is to say, have passed through all those trials, which, according to the rules of the Scotch bar, must take place, before any one can enter into that profession.

216      OBSERVATIONS ON

*Annual rent* [annual rente, Fr.]  
Interest.

*Caution* [caution, Fr.]  
Bail, security, surety.

*Cautioner* [cautionner, Fr.]  
Bail, or surety,

*Cedent* [cedant, Fr.]  
Assignor.

*The complainer.*  
The complainant.

A *complainer*, in England, is a *murmurer*, or *querulous person*. The Scots also say, *pursuer* for *plaintiff*, and *defender* for *respondent*.

*Conquest* [conquêt, Fr.]  
Acquisitions made by a husband or wife, during the existence of a marriage.

*Debitor* [debitor, Latin].  
Debtors.

THE SCOTTISH DIALECT. 217

*A decree* [decret, Fr.]

**A** decree, or decision.

The distinction is, *a decree in the Chancery*, but *a decision in the Court of King's Bench.*

*A deed of mortification* [mortification, Fr.]

**A** gift in mortmain.

A perpetual donation for charitable purposes.

*Desuetude* [desuetudo, Latin].

Disuse, cessation from being accustomed.

*A doer*, (an old English word, for)

An agent.

*Expiry of a lease.*

Expiration of a lease.

*The feiar* (from *fee*).

The person who has the fee.

The

The proprietor is termed *fiar*, in contradistinction to the person who is intitled to the rents of the estate during his own life.

*Forfaulure* [forfeiture, Fr.]

Forfeiture.

*Fortalice* [forteresse, Fr.]

Castle, or place of strength.

*Interlocutor* [interlocutoire, Fr.]

Interlocutory sentence.

An *interlocutor*, in English, is a *dialogist*, or *one who talks with another*.

*A list* (from *let*, or *list*).

A list of names.

Properly, *lists of the names of persons nominated for any office or employment*, which *lists* must be approved of by those to whom the *lists* are presented.

*Lesson*

*Lesion* [lesion, Fr.]

Loss, or damage.

*The libel* [libellus, Latin].

The writ, or inditement.

*Mails and duties* [maille, & devoir, Fr.  
participle dû].

Rents.

*A march* [marche, Fr.]

A limit, or boundary.

*Marches*, in the plural, is used; but it seems more appropriated to the *boundary* between two kingdoms, than of neighbouring parishes, counties, or estates.

*Multure* [mouture, Fr.]

A miller's fee for grinding.

When the great advantage of water-mills was discovered, it was thought proper to give every kind of encouragement to those

those who erected them. *Thirlage, socome,* and *multure*, were then established. *Thirlage*, or *an obligation upon certain lands to grind all their grain at a certain mill.* *Socome*, and *multure*, or *dues necessary to be paid by the possessors of those lands to the occupier of the mill, and the person who erected it.*

*The pannel* [panneau, Fr.]

The prisoner at the bar.

*Prisoners* are called *pannels* in Scotland, from their being inclosed in a *pannel* (*panneau*), or *little square*, when tried before a judge. And the jury is said to be *impannelled*, when they are shut up by themselves, until they give their verdict.

*A process* [procés, Fr.]

A suit, or action at law.

*The*

*The provost of a town* [prevôt, Fr.]

The mayor, or lord mayor of a town.

*Bailie*, is also made use of for *alderman*,  
*burgbers* for *burgesses*, and *treasurer* for  
*chamberlain*.

*A reduction* [reduction, Fr.]

**A** suit for reducing.

An action for voiding or setting aside  
any right, whether by agreement, or the  
sentence of a judge.

*Sheriff depute* [député, Fr.]

Under-sheriff, or sheriff-deputy.

The English also say *deputy*, and not *de-  
pute*.

*Skaith*, or *skath* [Saxon].

Loss, or damage.

*Sorners* [sorehon, Irish].

Vagrants.

*A man's*

*A man's subjects.*

A man's goods, effects.

*Such a man has a very good subject, and his subjects have sold well,* are two very common Scoticism.

*Superplus.*

Surplus, or overplus.

*A tack.*

A lease.

*Tailzie.*

Intail.

*Teinds* (from *ten*).

Tithes.

*Tenements* [tenementum, Latin].

Houfes.

*A tenement of land* (which is surely a Scottish expression), is *a great collection of*

9                    *bouses,*

*bouses, one built over the other, in separate floors or stories.*

*Terce.*

Legal jointure to a widow of a third of her husband's estate.

*Liferent*, is also a Scotch legal term, for *annuity*.

*Tinsel* (from *tyne*, Icelandic, *to lose*).

Loss, damage.

*Tolbooth.*

Prison, jail.

*A tutor*, and *curator* [Latin].

A guardian.

In England, *tutors* are what the Scots call *governors*, *dumines*, or *pædagogues*; as *travelling tutor*.

*Vacance* (as, *the summer vacance*).

Vacation.

*Wadset*

*Wadset* (from *wad*, an old word for *pledge*).  
Mortgage.

*Warrantise* [warrantiso, Law Latin].  
Warranty.

*A writer.*

An attorney, or solicitor.

*A writer*, is properly *an author*.

*Heritable security.*

Mortgage.

*Personal security*, (more commonly)  
Bond security.

*Leasing making.*

A species of treason.

*Liege poustie* [legitima potestas].  
Legal power.

*As effors* [affaire, Fr.]

As is proper, or expedient.

*Failing of him and his heirs.*

In default of him and his heirs.

CLERICAL WORDS *and* PHRASES.

**Scotch.** *To transport an incumbent* [transporter, Fr.]

**English.** To translate an incumbent.

**A kirk,** (an old English word, for)

A church.

**A general assembly of the kirk.**

A convocation.

The church of Scotland claim the right of *assembling* by their own authority. The clergy of England are *convoked* by the crown.

**A loft** [Danish].

A gallery.

*Galleries*, in churches, are called *lofts* in Scotland, and, I believe, in the North of England, from their being raised “*aloft*” above the other seats of the church. *Organ-loft* is still retained.

Q

*Stool*

*Stool of repentance, or cutty-stool.*

Church pillory, or place of doing penance.

*The cutty-stool* is a kind of *pillory in a church*, erected for the punishment of those who have transgressed in the article of chastity, and, on that account, are liable to the censures of the church.

*The ordinance.*

The sacrament, or eucharist.

*The sacrament* is emphatically called *the ordinance*, from its having been ordained by our Saviour.

*Mcs John*, (a ludicrous name for)

A parson.

*A good stipend*, (more commonly in England)

A good living, cure, or benefice.

*A precentor* [presenteur, Fr.]

A clerk.

The

The Scots also say, *to present*, for *to give out the psalm*.

*The twentieth and second psalm.*

The twenty-second psalm.

The Scotch phrase would imply, that a certain number of lines out of the *twentieth*, and so many out of the *second psalm* were to be sung.

*The manse*, (usually in England)

The parsonage-house.

*Manse*, which comes from the Latin word *mansiō*, is sometimes made use of in England; but *parsonage-house* is more common.

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The Author has now concluded a subject, which the prospect he had at an early period of life, of being obliged to speak in public, first induced him to consider.—He conceived, that any one who addressed the

Public, either at the bar, or as the representative of a number of respectable and independent gentlemen, ought not to be distinguished by a rustic stile, or a provincial dialect; and he now flatters himself, that the pains he took to correct his own language, may have led him to make such observations as may be of service to many of his countrymen, who are under the same predicament.

The subject he has ventured to write upon, includes an infinite variety of particulars, many of which, from the very nature of language, must necessarily be fluctuating and capricious; he hopes, therefore, the candid critic, who is acquainted with the difficulty of the undertaking, will excuse any imperfections that may have attended the execution; especially as accuracy and elegance of stile, however desirable, could only be considered by the Author

thor in his hours of leisure from more important pursuits.

This, it may be observed, is the largest collection of Scoticisms that has hitherto been offered to the Public; and without such aid, any considerable improvement in the language of a Scotchman would require much labour and attention. The collection has been of considerable service to the Author; and any trouble he has had in arranging the materials, will be amply compensated, if it shall tend to remove so conspicuous and unpleasing a mark of distinction between South and North Britain.

But it must not be imagined that bad language, and improper or obsolete words and phrases, are entirely confined to Scotland. On the contrary, if England were to be ransacked, as numerous a list of improprieties as is contained in this collection, might be

be exhibited to the world, of defects both in writing and speaking: Nor is the capital itself exempted, though in general accounted the standard of good language. And, although it is proper for the Scots to acquire the real and genuine English words and phrases; yet such as are either provincial, vulgar, or cockney, ought to be carefully avoided.

The provincial phrases made use of in the various districts into which England is divided, would form a work both large and curious; and, from the specimens I have seen, would contain many words and idioms, at present supposed peculiar to Scotland: But there are many of them of a more confined and local nature, and fully as absurd and ridiculous, as any to which the Scots are addicted.—For example, *say of it* (corrupted from *affay*), for *taste of it*;

*a few broth, for a little broth; a couple of pease, for a few pease; how be did do, for how be was; without knowing to you, for without being known to you; yes sure, and no sure, for yes and no, and the like.*

Vulgar phrases are equally exceptionable. For instance, *cutting a figure, for making a figure; prizes, for prices; much less expenses, for much less expence; in all my born days, for since I was born; quarten's hour, for a quarter of an hour, &c.*

Cockney phrases, a Scotchman is very apt to get into when he makes his first appearance in London. And when he can easily and fluently bring out, *this here thing, and that there thing, for this or that thing; I knode, for I knew; on it, for of it, as, I heard on it; grass, for asparagus; your'n and his'n, for yours and his,* he fancies himself a complete Englishman. It is a common

**232      OBSERVATIONS, &c.**

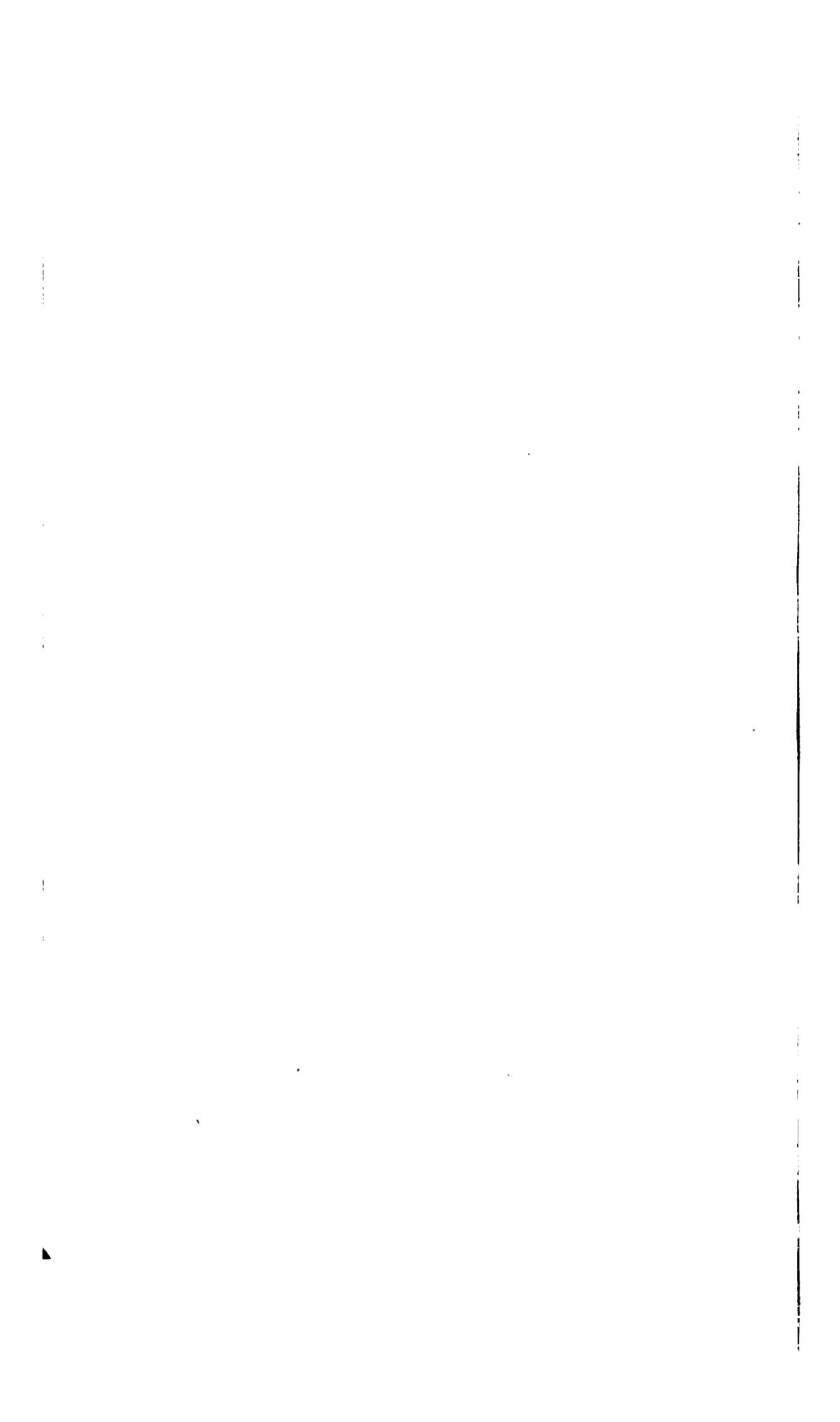
common observation, that bad habits are more easily, and indeed are more generally acquired, than good ones, and experience proves the observation to be true, with respect to language.

**F I N I S.**



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